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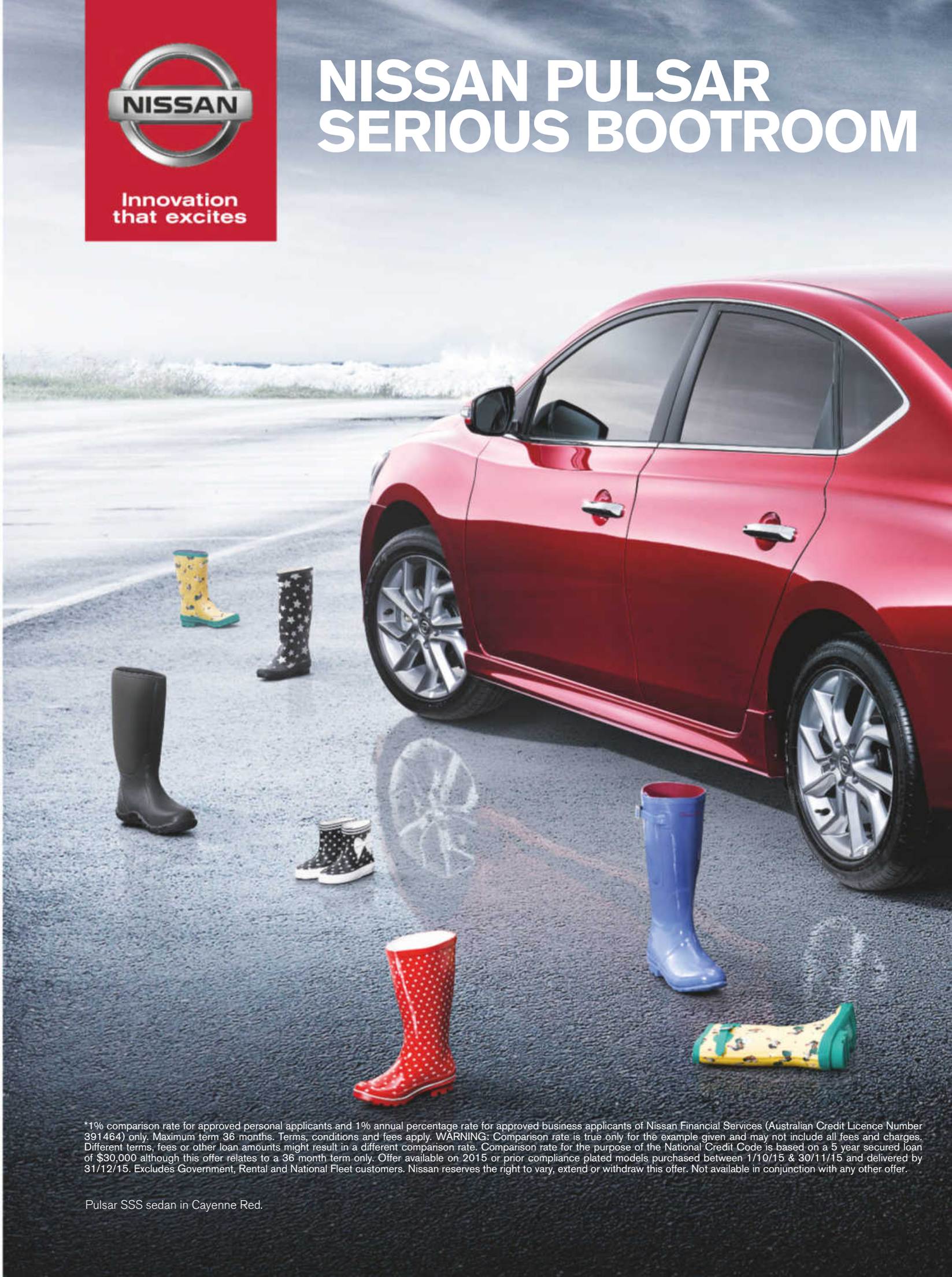


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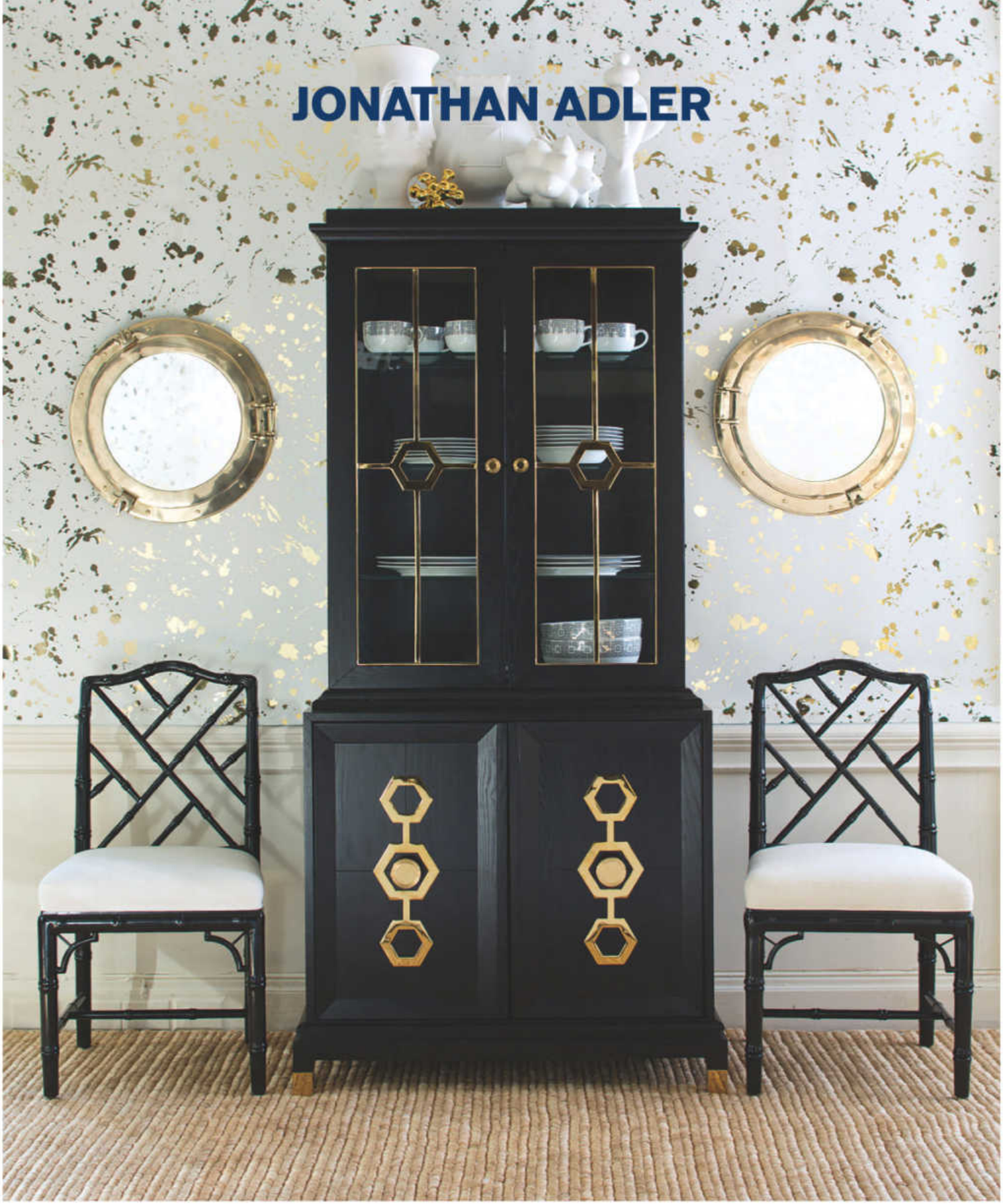
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From the editor

a new tradition

There is a simple beauty in the dependable tradition of Christmas. Almost every year, my family has done the same thing; we all head down to our (too-small) house on the Hawkesbury River and spend Christmas and the days around it together, playing cards, reading books and solving the world's problems over a few good glasses of wine. It can get a bit squashy, sure, but at the same time, it's an instant escape up there on the river, with no cars and limited mobile coverage – just surrounded by our ever-growing extended family.

This year, however, for the very first time, my little family is going to break tradition and head in our own direction. I'd be lying if I didn't admit to feeling slightly nervous. For years we've spent Christmas surrounded by lots of people, piles of presents and a never-ending stream of food. Our girls have had constant entertainment, generations of toys, and more attention than they could have possibly hoped for. And I've had the pleasure of watching everyone open the gifts I've bought for them and generally relishing in the unquestionable love that only your family can give.

However, at the same time, I feel a genuine sense of excitement at the thought of the four of us waking up to brimming Santa sacks, to long relaxed meals and hour-upon-hour of uninterrupted time together. I'm already planning evening campfires on the beach, early-morning swims and a list of afternoon movies.

After a very busy year, the promise of such a quiet, intimate Christmas literally makes me yearn for the day to come. I know that I will have a quiet tear when I call the river and hear the bubbling celebrations over the phone, but I also know that this year, our big break from tradition will be a holiday my little family will remember forever.

Whatever your Christmas looks like this year, I hope it's a safe and happy one.

Wendy
Editor





Feel inspired by an elegant Christmas palette, whether it be chic and light from page 61 {top right} or classic and traditional from page 41 {bottom right}.

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STYLING HEIDI ALBERTINI. PHOTOGRAPHY CATH MUSCAT











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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE PAGES OF *HOME BEAUTIFUL* AND BEYOND – TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



winning letter

After years of scrimping, saving and planning, my partner and I are ready to begin renovating our home. I've been taking notes and bookmarking ideas for such a long time: now, finally, I can put to use all the inspiration I've gained from *HB* into my own home. Thank you for the insight needed to tackle such a large job!

Tori Ritchie, Brisbane, Qld, via email

This month's prize... is a Danish Eiderdowns queen quilt, standard pillow set and a pair of Rialto 'Superfine' pillowcases from The Bedspread Shop, valued at $377; thebedspreadshop.com.au, (03) 9500 0692.



"I keep page clippings of *HB* in a *scrapbook* and when I get the chance, I try to incorporate the *HB style*: easy, elegant and laid-back living." ~ Louise Stockburger, Monarto, SA, via email







Location, location!

How spoilt we are to experience first-hand the beautiful homes featured in *HB*. For Christmas, we visited two very different, but equally breathtaking, properties to inspire your holiday style. Here, a few behind-the-scenes snaps (clockwise from far left): giggling little helpers and a charming gate at our cover story home (page 41) in Exeter, NSW; the bluest view from the balcony at our dreamy "white" Christmas home (page 61).

Homegrown It's taken me eight years as a homeowner – and many, many issues of *HB* – to gradually realise my dream interior scheme of grey, black, white and timber, not unlike Kyree and Ben's home (right), featured in your November issue. After reading the feature, I now know the stores to visit to make my dream a reality. Even better, they're all Australian! Thank you for the ideas. *Angela Wolff, Melbourne, Vic, via email*





Colour crush

@teamtonkin turned her bedroom into an island oasis with bright hues and playful prints. Share your summer style using #hbmystyle.
FOLLOW @homebeautiful



Puppy love

Facebook fan Robin Gilbert is as pet-obsessed as the *HB* office. "A house isn't a home without our four-legged babies," she wrote. We agree!
FOLLOW us at facebook.com/homebeautifulmag



Icing on the cake

We've been overwhelmed with 90th birthday wishes, including this one from @noicreations, who said, "Happy Birthday! I'm loving this issue, particularly the trip down memory lane to the original edition."
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COMPILED BY OLIVIA CLARKE

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everyday treasures

Jewellery designer Abby Seymour's beautiful pieces make day-to-day life more artful

WORDS **ANNA McCOOE**
STYLING **AIMEE TARULLI**
PHOTOGRAPHY
JESSICA REFTEL EVANS











Abby Seymour (opposite) surrounded by her works and works-in-progress, including 'Eclipse', 'Galaxy' and 'Sunrise' rings (second row, right) and 'Half Moon' necklace components (top row, far left). "When I first started exploring wearable pieces, I really connected with the idea of creating special work that people could enjoy every day," says Abby. Here, the workspace in her light-filled studio. >



"I LIKE TO PAIR *hard-edged*, CRISP GEOMETRY WITH SOFT *textural* DETAILS AND HAND-IMPRESSIONS" ~ ABBY

ANY GIVEN WORKDAY, jewellery designer Abby Seymour can be found beneath the soaring ceilings of the Younghusband Woolstore building in Melbourne's Kensington, where she shares a studio space with textile designers Ink & Spindle. At her workspace, Abby's shoulders will be hunched, her neck bent, muscles tensed and eyes narrowed as she threads minuscule chain pieces together into one of her tassel pieces. She might spend 12 hours soldering ring after ring, or painstakingly buffing silver to a polish. "After getting familiar with the collection, you get to the point where making becomes second nature," she says. "And I love getting lost in the process."

It's immediately clear the self-taught jewellery maker is detail-oriented and methodical. These traits not only brought her to the intricate world of jewellery, but also help her juggle her wholesale business with other work, including bespoke commissions and the ceramics workshops she holds at the studio.

Drawing inspiration from the natural world, Abby creates a mix of high-quality everyday items and special-occasion statement pieces, blending crisp geometric forms with illustrative markings. On a deeper level, her work is motivated by a real commitment to sustainability. "All jewellery has some impact on the environment," she explains. "If I am going to use materials that have been mined from the earth, I am really conscious of making the most of them. So it becomes about creating pieces that are made to last and that the wearer will want to hold onto for a long, long time."

Abby is one of only seven fair trade-listed gold jewellers in Australia. She sources ethical gems, the porcelain she uses is quarried in Victoria and she uses recycled silver and gold wherever possible. Then there are her hand-printed, hand-stitched jewellery bags, which are almost as prized as their contents. "It was really important to me that all packaging has a second purpose," she says.

Her creative process is driven by her multi-disciplinary training. She holds a bachelor degree in printmaking and a masters of fine art from RMIT, and worked as a professional bookbinder during her masters degree. Following a time exploring printmaking, she spent three years collaborating with friend Katherine Wheeler on their joint ceramics label, Golden Ink. Even now, four years after launching her eponymous jewellery brand, Abby's printmaking heritage is revealed through her fine carvings on metal and new range of letterpress prints. Likewise, her background in ceramics is incorporated into her latest collection via sculptural hand-formed raku-fired ceramic components.

All of these factors make Abby's jewellery highly autobiographical, although she is more concerned with the part her pieces play in other people's stories. As she explains, "To create something that someone will wear every day – and sometimes for the rest of their lives – that is really amazing." >







Clockwise from top: Abby at work in her studio in Melbourne's Kensington; a display of her craft, including ceramics and a print; early design sketches; pieces from her latest jewellery collection.

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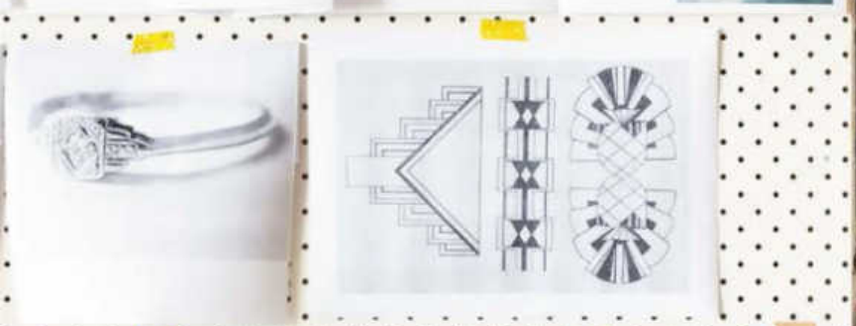
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ABBY'S TOP TIPS FOR *running a creative business*

1.

"Differentiate. When one area is quiet, the others will pick up. There are so many ups and downs and cash-flow issues with running your own business... having three of four avenues works best for me. These include teaching workshops, commissioned-based pieces and the wholesale collection, as well as markets and trade shows."

2.

"Share the experience. When you're finding your feet, sharing a space with other creatives really helps your business to expand quicker. If you are working by yourself, you have to nut out every single detail on your own. For ideas, visit creativespaces.net.au or creativewomenscircle.com.au."

3.

"Take care of yourself. I'm still working on this one. You put in a lot of hours when you're getting something up and running. It's smart to have a balanced lifestyle so you still have love for the business when it takes off."









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STYLE FILE

Our round-up of the latest design news, shopping and decorating trends

EDITED BY **ANNA McCOOE & BETTINA TYRRELL**



HEADY METAL

Melbourne-based studio Ivy Muse's new range of metal plant stands will add plenty of glam to your greenery. 'Calypso' is the third collection from founders and long-time friends Jacqui Vidal and Alana Langan, who launched their first range just over a year ago. To complement the statement stands (priced from $140), the duo teamed up with Sydney makers Design Twins to create the lightweight 'Harlequin' pots range (from $150) and ceramicist Ana Maria Jensen to produce limited-edition handmade pots ($95 each). Visit ivymuse.com.au.



TAKE A BOW

The handsome, three-legged 'Bow' chair is a masterstroke from multi-award-winning designer – and *HB* favourite – Tom Fereday in collaboration with Sydney-based Design By Them. Named for its slender arching backrest, the chair is constructed to accentuate the natural grain of shaped timber. Available in Natural Ash or Black Stain. $1355; designbythem.com.

TRENDING: CORAL



We have a crush on coral in all its sun-kissed glory.

1. Sove 'Two Tone' linen quilt cover, from $259, cittadesign.com.
2. Ding3000 for Normann Copenhagen coffee table in Coral, $675, hgfs.com.au.
3. 'Tigerlily' cushion in Coral, $54.95/40cm x 60cm, rapee.com.au.

Find unique, *Australian-made* gift ideas at Canberra's Handmade Market. December 12-13; handmadecanberra.com.au



almost grown up

Teen bedding is coming of age, with bohemian and graphic prints in toned-down colours. Invest in a size they'll grow into.

1. 'Cameo Patchwork' bedcover, $389/queen, Sage And Clare, sageandclare.com. 2. 'Nio' quilt cover in Maize, $258/queen (including 2 pillowcases), Aura by Tracie Ellis, aurahome.com.au. 3. 'New Wave' quilt cover, $149/queen, Arro Home, arrohome.com. 4. 'Skye' quilt cover, $229/queen, Country Road, countryroad.com.au. 5. 'Beetles/Fleck' reversible bedspread, $389 (254 cm x 274cm), Caroline Kaufman for Kip & Co, kipandco.net.au. >



Bright summer

Lumiere Art & Co founder Emma Cleine's new 'Summer Printscape' collection of art, photography and textiles pays homage to Victoria through painterly patterns and fragmented snapshots of the coast, sunrises, farms and paddocks. Her range now also includes wallpaper, with subtle artful imagery produced on low-gloss, non-woven paper. Pictured right: 'Three Little Pom Poms' wallpaper $92/sqm (available through Sparkk; sparkk.com.au), 'Lumiere Pie' cushion, from $110, and 'Pony Tail' print, $330 (unframed), both lumiereartandco.com.au.



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The *Big Design Market* returns to Melbourne from December 4-6

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hanging jewels

Adding feminine style to an industrial fave, these Torremato 'Bon Ton' pendants by Cristina Celestino feature oak beads and are topped with a copper "butterfly" that resembles the back of a pierced earring. From $929; lightco.com.au.

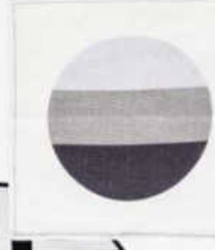


IN CONTRAST

Classic monochrome tones meet geometric forms. Clockwise from right: Kate & Kate 'The Echo' linen napkin, $95/set of 6, kateandkate.com.au; Relax & Entertain 'Round' throw, $169.95, relaxandentertain.com.au; Greg Natale for One Duck Two 'Memphis' cushion, $120, oneducktwo.com.au. >







TRENDING: CORK

Not just for shoes and champagne bottles, cork has come of age and is popping up everywhere.

1. NUD COLLECTION CORK PENDANT, FROM $99, SURROUNDING.COM.AU.
2. BLOOMINGVILLE CORK AND CERAMIC VASE IN GREY, $89, ROOMANDBLOOM.COM.AU.
3. 'PUSHPIN' SIDE TABLE/STOOL, $420, THEMINIMALIST.COM.AU.

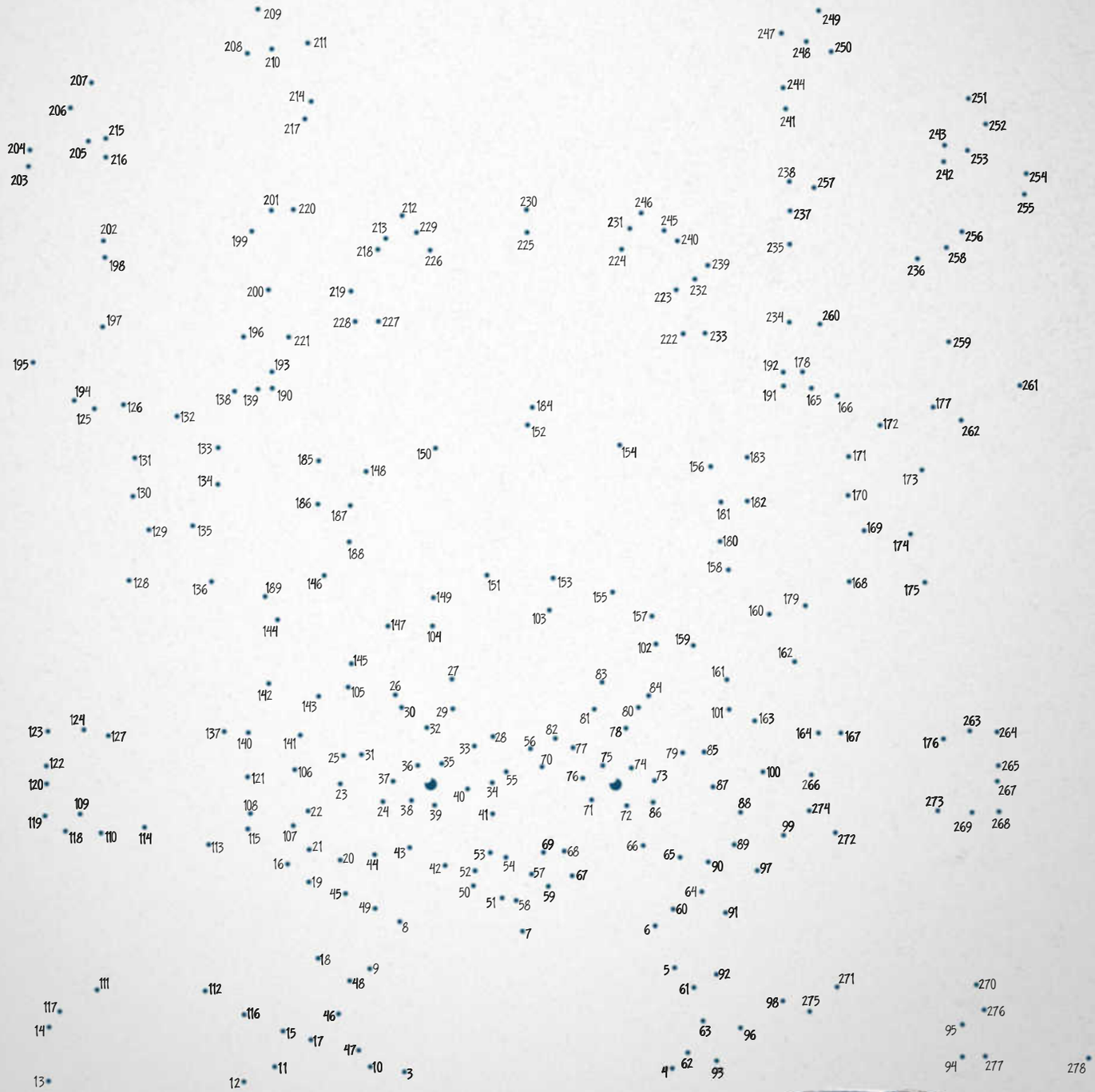




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DESIGN FESTIVAL
fiesta

It's show-and-tell season, when the design industry heads to London and Paris to parade its newest creations. Here are a few of the top attractions (clockwise from above left):

1. To launch its UK flagship store in London, the Melbourne-based tabletop brand Mud Australia partnered with the London Design Festival to present the in-store installation '100% Handmade'; mudaustralia.com.
2. Launched at the Maison & Objet show in Paris, the 'Still Alive' collection by Antonio Aricò for Seletti is a family of containers and paperweights featuring geometric shapes and warm colours; seletti.it.
3. A little Memphis and very now, Luca Nichetto's 'Alphabeta' lights for Hem are modular, customisable pendants. They are the result of two rising stars crossing paths – Italian designer-of-the-moment Nichetto and online studio Hem; hem.com.
4. Belgian designer Charlotte Lancelot stole the show at Maison & Objet with the 'Silaï' from GAN collection of embroidered rugs, cushions and ottomans in a patchwork of textures and colours. You'll find the range at Hub Furniture in 2016; hubfurniture.com.au.
5. To launch the 'Podium' range of vases, British designer Lee Broom transformed his London flagship (left) into a flower shop; leebroom.com. hb













NISSAN

Innovation that excites

NISSAN PATHFINDER GETS BIG FAMILIES

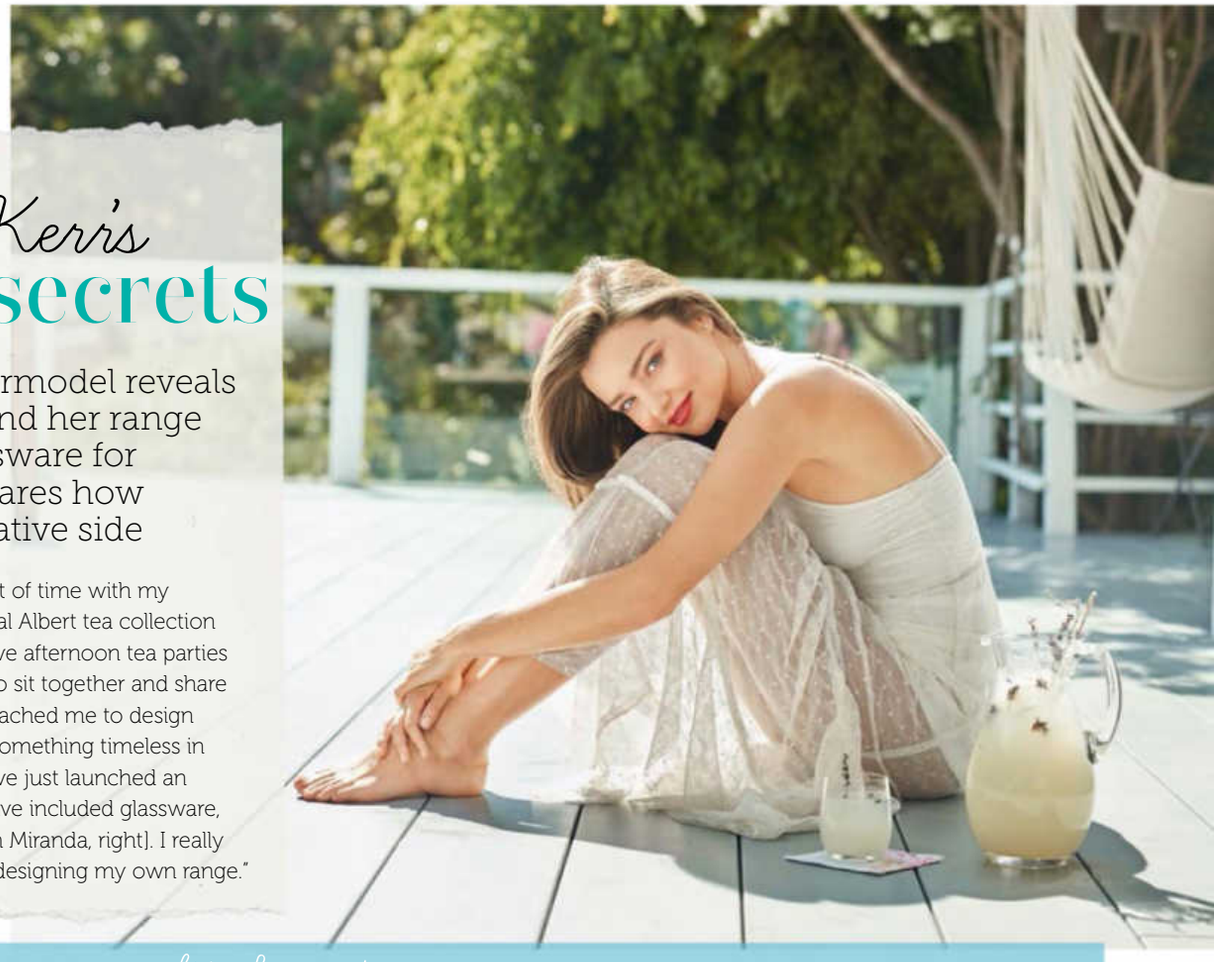
You don't even have time to read this. We get it. The Nissan Pathfinder is designed for people just like you. The Latch and Glide™ system means easy access to the third row. Seven adult-sized seats mean it's harder for your kids to annoy each other. And three entertainment zones* mean you can tailor your distractions perfectly. Meanwhile, the 360° Around View® Monitor† makes parking troubles a thing of the past. So driving the Nissan Pathfinder is like having a little break really.



PTH0470/GBF

Ti model shown. *Ti model only. †ST-L Option Pack and Ti models only.

Miranda Kerr's style secrets



The Australian supermodel reveals the inspiration behind her range of teaware and glassware for Royal Albert, and shares how she unlocks her creative side

"*Growing up*, I spent a lot of time with my grandmother and she had a Royal Albert tea collection that I was fascinated by. We'd have afternoon tea parties and it was always a time for us to sit together and share stories. When Royal Albert approached me to design a collection, I wanted to create something timeless in honour of my grandmother. We've just launched an extension to the teaware, and have included glassware, vases and giftware [pictured with Miranda, right]. I really enjoyed the creative process of designing my own range."

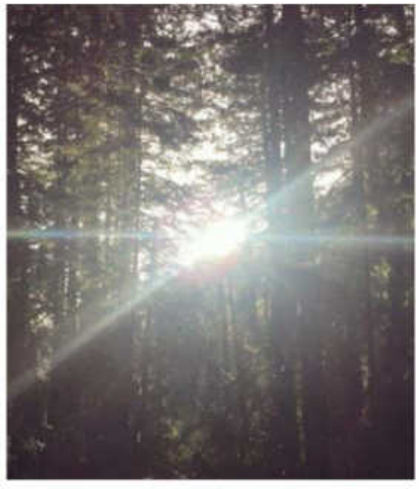
"Like most women, I am *multi-faceted* and I feel the essence of who I am is *joyful and fun*. I wanted to capture that with the collection" ~ MIRANDA



"SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH MY SON'S eyes [Flynn, pictured above] is magical and enchanting. It's so easy to get caught up in everything but he notices the smallest things – it may be a little bird, or the shape of the clouds above us. Taking the time to sit with him drawing and painting really inspires my creativity."



"I'M CONSTANTLY TRAVELLING FOR MY WORK and I love absorbing different cultures and environments – the food, the fashion and the lifestyle. I love getting out and exploring national parks and gardens as well as street markets and art galleries. Nature is a constant source of inspiration. I've always been in awe of its beauty and strength."





"*Having a calm mind* really opens up my creative side and allows me to think outside the square. I'm much more inspired after yoga or meditation. I love music, too – everything from classical and pop to country and hip-hop."

PHOTOGRAPHY INSTAGRAM/MIRANDAKERR

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UPDATE FESTIVE COLOURS BY
EMBRACING *blues & neutrals*
IN YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATING





THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A REAL TREE TO BRING THE *christmas spirit* INTO YOUR HOME

Above: **Fiat** 500 in Red, from $16,000, Fiat Australia. Suitcases, stylist's own. Below: Phoebe lends a helping hand.



Opposite, clockwise from left: 'Albion' **rug**, $299, Freedom. Rattan **basket**, $149/set of 2, Loft Furniture. Vintage washed **throw** in Dark Grey, $119.95, Adairs. Jute stool, stylist's own (for similar, see Bisque Interiors). 'Celebrate' mini **milk bottle**, $6/set of 6, Target. Red hardback vintage **book**, $80/set of 4, Elements I Love. Large book, stylist's own. Metal **calendar** in Red, $59, Bed, Bath N' Table. Mirror, stylist's own (for similar, see Elements I Love). 'French Louis' **chair** in Charcoal with oak frame, $630, Lavender Hill Interiors. 'Farrow' **throw**, $149, Freedom. 'Elk' **cushion**, $65, Suzie Anderson Home. On chair, from left: 'Pine' wrapping **paper** and 'Camellia' **paper**, both $5.95/1.5m, Dailylike. Cotton **twine** in Natural, $8.40/100m, and saddle-stitch cotton **ribbon** in Grey, $11.80/20m, both Koch & Co. 'Pine Cone' double-sided wrapping **paper**, $20/5 rolls, She Eats Paper on Etsy. Tartan wrapping **paper**, $10/mixed pack of 3, Typo. 'Doves' wrapping **paper**, $3/sheet, Lauren Merrick Illustration. Above, clockwise from left: Handmade woollen **socks**, $35/pair, Major Minor. Saddle-stitch cotton **ribbon** and grosgrain fine striped **ribbon** in Red, both $11.80/20m, Koch & Co. Fundamentals circle **tags**, $2.99/pack of 25, Spotlight. Mini **pegs** in White, $5.99/packet, Spotlight. Presents and milk bottle, as above. Silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. 'Mayfair' **bowl**, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. Napkin, stylist's own. Pine cone **card**, $6, She Eats Paper on Etsy. Previous page: Women's 'Vintage' **bike**, $249, Reid Cycles. Stockists, page 237 >

STYLING ASSISTANT RHIANNE CONTRERAS







IT'S A DAY THAT BRINGS *generations* TOGETHER

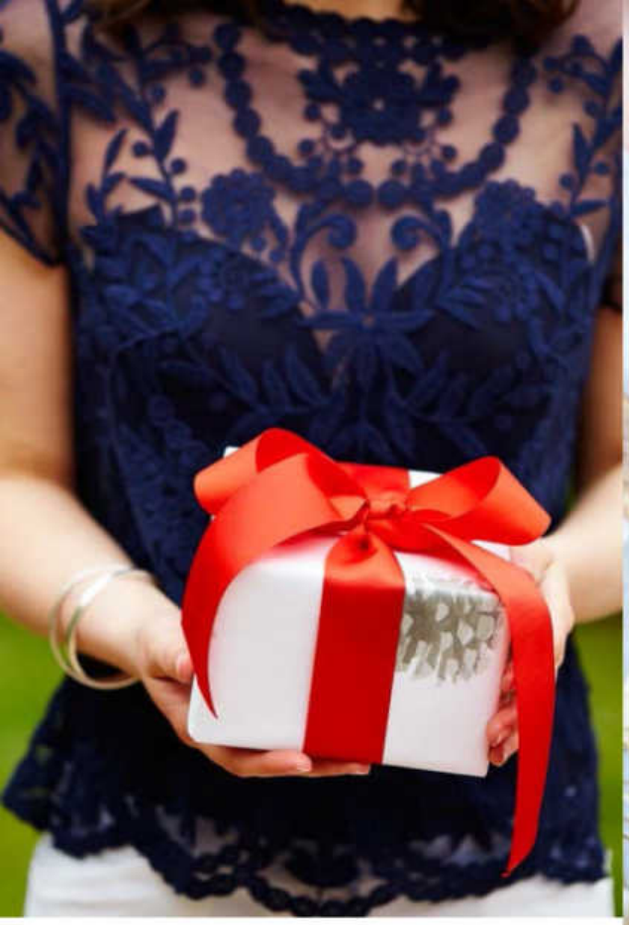
Above, from left: 'Albion' **rug**, $299, Freedom. Rattan **chest**, $647/set of 3, Citta Design. Sienna wears Cotton On Kids. Presents, as for previous page. 'French Louis' **chair** in Charcoal with oak frame, $630, Lavender Hill Interiors. June wears Elk. Book, as for previous page. Ethically sourced **reindeer hide**, $490, Inartisan. Chilli wears twill herringbone **ribbon** in Red, $14/20m, Koch & Co. Ryder wears Pumpkin Patch. **Christmas tree** (used throughout), from $125/small, Christmas Tree Man. On Christmas tree: Knitted **throw** (around base of tree), $950, Little Dandelion. Acorn **garland**, $28, and timber **snowflake**, $12, both Suzie Anderson Home. Brown **birds**, $15 each, hanging **birds** with diamante trim, $19 each, gold **hearts** with birds, $19 each, silver **acorns**, $22 each, and geometric **baubles** in Champagne, $15 each, all The French Villa. **Rocking horses** in Natural, and **stars** in Natural, both $8.40, Koch & Co. Top right, from left: Suitcase, stylist's own. Twill herringbone **ribbon** in Red (on present), $14/20m, Koch & Co. Christmas **wreath**, from $160, Seasonal Concepts. 'Iluminado' **lantern**, $169/large, Citta Design. 'Grotto' **pot**, $30, Elements I Love. Candles, stylist's own. Phoebe and Isabel wear their own clothing. Presents, as for previous page. Above right: For details, see above.



Clockwise from back: 'French Provincial' **sofa** (including 3 matching cushions), $2125, striped linen **cushion**, $70, linen **cushion** in Charcoal, $70, and 'Ironflowers' linen **cushion**, $70, all Lavender Hill Interiors. Vintage washed linen/cotton **throw** in Dark Grey, $119.95, Adairs. 'French Louis' **chair** in Charcoal with oak frame, $630, Lavender Hill Interiors. Striped linen **cushion**, as above. Rattan **chests** (used as coffee tables), $647/set of 3, Citta Design. **On chest at right:** Red hardback vintage **books**, $80/set of 4, Elements I Love. Clear glass **bauble**, $9.50, Suzie Anderson Home. Gift **box** in White, $1.85, and twill herringbone **ribbon** in Red, $14/20m, both Koch & Co. Silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. **On chest in centre:** 'Grapes' silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. Pine cone **candles**, $48/large, $18/small, Suzie Anderson Home. 'Mayfair' dessert **bowl**, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. **On floor:** 'Elk' **cushion**, $65, Suzie Anderson Home. Tealight-holder **train**, $18.60, Koch & Co. Tree details, see opposite. Presents, see page 43. **Stockists, page 237** >

GATHER YOUR *friends & family* AROUND AN ELEGANT, RELAXED TABLE





Above: 'Pine Cone' double-sided wrapping **paper**, $20/5 rolls, She Eats Paper on Etsy. Twill herringbone **ribbon** in Red, $14/20m, Koch & Co. Rhianne dressed by Ezibuy.
Right, from back: Silver water **canister**, $35, No 12 Trading. 'Mayfair' **goblets**, $6.95 each, Bed, Bath N' Table. Breadboard, stylist's own. 'Host' cake **forks** in Rose Gold, $39.95/set of 6, and 'Provence Lace' **plate** in Cool Grey, $65.95, all Domayne. Vintage pressed-glass **jug**, from $15, Seasonal Concepts. Linen **napkin**, $27, The Country Trader.



GRILLED ZUCCHINIS & ARTICHOKES WITH MARINATED MOZZARELLA
See recipe on page 225



TOMATO, BEAN & BASIL SALAD
See recipe on page 225

Opposite, from left: Steel **wagon** in Red, $49.95, Mocka. Champagne, courtesy Deutz. 'Lenoir' **chairs** in Ecru, $529 each, and 'Manyara' **table**, from $1549, all La Maison. Home Republic vintage washed **sheets** in Linen (used as tablecloth throughout), $399/queen set, Adairs. Linen **napkins**, $17 each, Maison Et Jardin. Côté Table 'Trend' **dinner plates** and **side plates**, $360/set of 12, and acrylic-handle **cutlery**, $118/set of 6, all Suzie Anderson Home. 'Mayfair' **goblets**, $6.95 each, Bed, Bath N' Table. 'Triangle' wrapping **paper**, $3/sheet, Lauren Merrick Illustration. Clear glass **bauble**, $9.50, and silver **bauble**, $14, both Suzie Anderson Home. 'Grapes' silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. **Decanter**, $380, Conley & Co. Walnut **decorations** in White, $22.50/set of 5, Kuberstore. 'Elodie' champagne **glasses**, $15.95 each, Quintessence. Silver **cake stand** (used as vase), $40, No 12 Trading. Candelabra, stylist's own (for similar, try Le Forge). Vintage **ice bucket**, $399, Maison Et Jardin. Counter roll wrapping **paper** in White Gloss, $44.90/6m, Koch & Co. Tartan washi **tape**, $7.95, Typo. Vintage washed linen/cotton **throw** in Natural, $119.95, Adairs. Kate and Narelle dressed by Elk. Sienna dressed by Cotton On Kids. Zali, Aston and Ryder dressed by Pumpkin Patch. **Left, from back:** Silver cake stand, as above. Geometric **bauble** in Champagne, $14, The French Villa. Glass **pitcher**, $39.95, Quintessence. Linen **napkin**, $17, Maison Et Jardin. Vintage Wedgwood **plate**, $95, The Bay Tree. **Spoon**, $18, No 12 Trading. **Stockists, page 237** >



TURKETTA
See recipe on page 226

Above, from back: Glass carafe, stylist's own. 'Elodie' **champagne glass**, $15.95, and 'Scallop' **dinner plate** in White, $19.95, both Quintessence. Linen **napkin**, $17, Maison Et Jardin. Vintage **knife**, $125/set of 6, The Bay Tree. Silver-plated **fork**, $25, The Country Trader. Gift **tags**, $4.25/pack of 20, and saddle-stitch **ribbon** in Red, $14/20m, all Koch & Co.



ADD A TWIST TO *traditional fare* WITH FRESH INGREDIENTS AND DISHES THAT WARM THE SOUL

Above: Antique **carving set**, $299, and **tea towel** in Charcoal, $15, both Maison Et Jardin. Serving board, stylist's own (for similar, try Maison Et Jardin). **Left:** 'Grapes' silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. 'Elodie' **champagne glasses**, $15.95 each, Quintessence. Champagne, courtesy Grant Burge Australia. All other details, as for previous page. **Opposite:** 'Corner Shoppe Sherbet' **plates** in White, $12.95 each, Robert Gordon. Silver-plated **spoon**, $25, and linen **napkin**, $27, both The Country Trader. Baking dish, stylist's own. 'Mayfair' **goblet**, $6.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. **Stockists, page 237** >



POTATO &
PANCETTA ROAST
WITH THYME
See recipe on page 225



THIS *spectacular dessert* WILL DRAW INSTANT APPLAUSE. AND THE BEST THING OF ALL? IT CAN BE MADE UP TO TWO DAYS BEFORE IT GOES ON SHOW

TIRAMISU TORTE

See recipe on page 226

From back: Glass **pitcher**, $39.95, Quintessence. Vintage **ice bucket**, $399, Maison Et Jardin. 'Corner Shoppe Sherbet' **plates** in White, $12.95 each, Robert Gordon. 'Duo' herringbone **ribbon** in Red and White, $8.40/20m, Koch & Co. 'Mosaic' **cake stand**, $75, Conley & Co. Silver-plated **forks**, $25 each, The Country Trader. **Stockists, page 237** >


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Love coming home
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From back: Antique metal **wreath**, $79, and metal **table** in Antique Grey, $198, both My Brother Albert. Decanters and champagne glasses, stylist's own. (For similar whisky decanter, try Krosno; for wine decanter, try Peter's of Kensington. For champagne and wine glasses, try David Jones.) Presents, as for page 43. Cut-glass crystal **bowl**, $35, Seasonal Concepts. Geometric **bauble** in Champagne, $15, The French Villa. 'Baltimore' **napkin**, $3.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. **Stockists, page 237 >**

Enjoy the little things every day



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TWININGS OF LONDON

Enjoy Every Day



From left: Wooden **crate** on wheels, $149, Loft Furniture. Tartan wrapping **paper**, spot **paper** and tartan reindeer **paper**, all $10/mixed pack of 3, Typo. 'Pine' double-sided wrapping **paper**, $5.95/1.5m, Dailylike. 'Acorn' double-sided wrapping **paper**, $20/5 rolls, She Eats Paper on Etsy. **Boot rack** in oak, $205, Heaven In Earth. Original Kids First Classic **gumboots** in Red, $64/pair, Hunter Boots Australia. 'Tanda' **tote** in Natural/Blue, $79.95, Citta Design. Turkish **towel** in Grey, $59, Atolyia. Vintage **skipping rope**, $30, Elements I Love. Ice skates, kerosene lamp and table, all stylist's own. Present, as for page 43. Mini evergreen **Christmas tree**, $12.65/30cm, Koch & Co.





IT'S A TIME FOR
old-fashioned fun...
A GAME OF CRICKET,
A TURN ON THE
TYRE SWING



Top left: Acorn **garland**, $28, Suzie Anderson Home. **Stool**, $250, Elements I Love. Presents, as for page 43. All other items, stylist's own. **Above:** Ryder wears Pumpkin Patch. Sienna wears Cotton On Kids. **Left:** 'Premium' storage **basket** in Natural, $15.90, Koch & Co. Morgan & Finch 'Cucina' **tea towel** in Red, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. 'It's Christmas Time' **gift tag**, $2, Lauren Merrick Illustration. **Stockists, page 237** >



AT THE END OF THE DAY, INDULGE IN A *sweet treat* AND A STRONG ESPRESSO





Above, from left: 'Old Town' shopper **basket**, $44.90, Citta Design. Olive tree, stylist's own (for similar, try Advanced Trees Direct). Christmas **wreath**, from $160, Seasonal Concepts. 'Iluminado' **lantern**, $169/large, Citta Design. 'Grotto' **pot**, $30, Elements I Love. Candles, stylist's own. **Top left:** Sienna wears Cotton On Kids. Ryder and Aston wear Pumpkin Patch. **Left:** 'Nazareth' **candle**, $125, Cire Trudon. Geometric **bauble** in Champagne, $14, The French Villa. Silver **tray**, $85, Seasonal Concepts. 'Mayfair' dessert **bowl**, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. Pine cone **card**, $6, She Eats Paper on Etsy. Napkin and coffee cup, stylist's own. **Stockists, page 237**



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For product details, see page 71



OPEN YOUR HOME TO THE SEASONAL CHANGES AND
EMBRACE THE *fresh breezes* OF A COASTAL CHRISTMAS







Opposite page: 'Elephant' **screen** (used as bedhead), $1500, My Island Home. 'Bemboka' linen tailored **pillowcases**, $149/set, and wrinkled cotton **bedspread**, $349/240cm x 260cm, both The Design Hunter. 'Barnet Diamond' **cushion**, $70/45cm x 45cm, Globe West. Cultiver linen **sheets**, $380/queen set, and **duvet cover**, $335/queen set, both Manyara Home. 'White Light' crochet **throw**, $170, Losari. Moroccan **blanket**, $1090, Burke Home. White-washed Indian 'Grinder' **table**, $375, Orient House. Finger **coral**, $125, My Island Home. 'Agadir' **pendant**, $285, Indigo Love Collectors. Metal trunk, stylist's own. 'Ceramic Chamber Stick' **candlestick**, $16.95, Kitcha. Hayden Youlley 'Paper Series' **beaker** (used as vase), $40, Spence & Lyda. Elephant ear **coral**, $210, My Island Home. Beaten-metal **ice bucket**, $200, **branches**, $24 each, LED diamond ball **garland**, $40, all Mediterranean Markets. **Belt** (used as magazine holder), $25, Big W. Above left: Details, as above. Above right: Vintage **mannequin**, $1500, Ici Et La. Wire **wings**, from $89, Honeybee Homewares. For a similar LED globe string, try Mediterranean Markets. Bead **necklace**, $45, My Island Home. **Fairy lights**, $69.95/10m, Table Tonic. Hanging Christmas star **light**, $403/70cm, My Brother Albert. **Wallpapers** (used as wrapping paper), from $60/roll, Annandale Wallpapers. **Ribbons**, Vandoros Fine Packaging. 'Joy' swing tag, stylist's own. Right: **Wallpapers** (used as wrapping paper), as above. 'Vintage 12 Days of Christmas' wrapping **paper**, $19.95/pack of 3, **ribbons**, all Vandoros Fine Packaging. Silver pearl **ball**, $24/300mm, silver mercury **ball**, $14/150mm, both Chas Clarkson. **Basket**, $79, Burke Home. Reindeer **hide**, $550, The Design Hunter. Stockists, page 237 >

STYLING ASSISTANT RHIANNE CONTRERAS

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF *gathering together* TO SHARE THE LOVE





Above left: Nkuku 'Assam Tea' **glasses** and **carrier**, $69/set, Honeybee Homewares. Rhianne wears 'Broderie Waisted' dress by Country Road. Above right: **Cards**, from $6.95 each, Bespoke Letterpress. Silver washi **tape**, $4.95, Paper 2. Vase, stylist's own. Wire **house**, $49, Honeybee Homewares. Deer **ornament**, $95.95, white **bauble**, $44.96/pack of 16, My Christmas. Copper wire **fairy lights**, $16, beaded ball **bauble**, $10/small, pillar **candle** in Champagne, $28/small, all Mediterranean Markets. Opposite: 'Louis' **sofa** with slip cover, $5780, Staple & Co. On sofa, from left: Icelandic **sheepskin**, $295, 'Stitch' linen **cushion**, $210, 'Raindrop' linen **cushion**, $205, all The Design Hunter. Velvet lumbar **cushion**, $149, Maison Et Jardin. Olivia Dar 'Tribal' **clutch**, $290, Cloth & Co. Moroccan **cushion**, $175, Burke Home. On sideboard, from left: 'Oversize' **paper bag** (used as pot), $52, Uashmama. Pillar **candlestick**, $180, Ici Et La. Old table leg **candlestick**, $100, Indigo Love Collectors. Pillar **candles** in Champagne, from $10/small, Mediterranean Markets. Metal **star**, from $89, Honeybee Homewares. Wooden Jali **panel**, $245/medium, Garden Life. Silver wire **fairy lights**, $69.95/10m, Table Tonic. Cathedral **candles**, from $70/small, The Design Hunter. For a similar sideboard, try Beachwood Furniture. On side table: 'Space' **plate** in Ash, $115, Spence & Lyda. Silver mercury **ball**, $21/12.5cm, My Brother Albert. **Coral**, $300, My Island Home. **Anklets** with bells, $19 each, both Table Tonic. String **ribbon**, from $4.95, Vandoros Fine Packaging. **Gift tag**, $3.50, Paper 2. Waterford crystal **wine glass**, $40, Manyara Home. Tripod round **side table**, $580, Globe West. On coffee table: Brass **cup** (used as vase), $39/large, Burke Home. **Books**, My Island Home. Bohemia crystal 'Regency' **bowl**, $179, Maison Et Jardin. Smoked black-ribbed **balls**, $7 each, aluminium round **bowl**, $47/small, all My Brother Albert. White-washed Indian 'Grinder' **table**, $375, Orient House. On armchair: 'Rake Frozen Dew' lumbar **cushion**, $179, Bandhini. Cashmere **scarf**, $160, Cloth & Co. 'Bronte' linen **love seat**, $1895, Urban Couture. On floor: 'Tarca5-K-03' kilim **rug**, $2100, Indigo Love Collectors. 'Charvi' **cushion**, $159, silver **shoes**, $139, both Burke Home. Silver pearl **ball**, $24/300mm, mercury **ball**, $14/150mm, both Chas Clarkson.

OF WARMER AND BRIGHTER DAYS

On & under tree: Whitewash wooden **star**, $39.95/small, white **ornaments**, $24.95/pack of 4, silver and white **baubles**, $44.95/pack of 16, all My Christmas. Heart matt porcelain **decorations**, $3.50 each, beaded ball **bauble**, $13/large, all Mediterranean Markets. Silver mercury glass **ball** $21/12.5cm, antique white glass **ball**, $14, both My Brother Albert. Selection of **papers** and **ribbons**, from $4.95, Vandoros Fine Packaging. **Wallpaper** (used as wrapping paper), from $60/roll, Annandale Wallpapers. **Gift tags**, $5.95/pack of 10, **ribbon**, from $1/m, both Paper 2. Turkish wide-mouth antique **pot**, $540/medium, Lumu Interiors. For a similar Christmas tree, try Christmas Tree Man. Stockists, page 237 >




BREAK BREAD WITH
THE ONES you love





COLOUR-FILLED *shared plates* ARE AN INVITATION TO RELAX

Opposite, from top: Poinciana wood **board**, $280, Hamptons House. Stemless **champagne flute**, $20.50/set of 4, The Lost And Found Department. 'Flax' oval **bowl** in White, $12, Lime Lifestyle. Raw linen **napkin**, $29, Honeybee Homewares. Schott Zwiesel 'Cru Classic' **champagne flute**, $17.95, vintage **teaspoon**, $35, both The Bay Tree. 'Slate' **plate**, $36, marble egg-shaped **bowl**, $65, small 'Wabi Sabi' **bowl**, $16.50, The DEA Store. Laguiole **pâté knife**, $10.50, bone-handled **cheese knife**, $15, both The Lost And Found Department. Above left & right: 'Jamaica' **dining chairs**, $1099 each, Uniqwa Furniture. Raw linen **napkin**, $29, Honeybee Homewares. 'Serenity' **throw** (used as tablecloth), $139, Losari. Recycled elm-topped **table**, $3799, Bisque Interiors. Rhianne, on left, wears Country Road dress, as for page 64. Alex wears his own clothes. Amy, on right, wears 'Carla' dress by Cloth & Co and necklace by My Island Home. On table, from left: Vintage French glass **jar**, $190, vintage English **jug**, $90 (both used as vases), Quintessential Duckeggblue. Silver mercury **ball**, $14/ 150mm, Chas Clarkson. **Votive** (used as vase), $19, Honeybee Homewares. **Salad bowl**, $60, Hamptons House. Crackled **pitcher**, $29.95, stemless **champagne flute**, $20.50/set of 4, Portuguese stoneware **dinner plates**, $29.90 each, all The Lost And Found Department. Peter Anderson for DEA 'Soh' **plates**, $26, The DEA Store. Tony Sly 'Classic Pedestal Bowl' **comport**, $75, vintage Cobb & Co **cutlery**, $1200/set of 16, all The Bay Tree. Setting: 'Sir/Madam' **napkin**, $110/set of 4, timber **tag**, $3, both Grosgrain Homewares. All other items, as above. Right: 'Trudeau' vintage oak **board**, $125, Road Less Taken. Linen **tea towel** in Grey, $15, 'Chemistry' **bowl**, $7.50, both The Lost And Found Department. Stockists, page 237 >



GARLIC PRAWN RICE PAPER ROLLS

See recipe on page 228

HEALTHY AND *fresh flavours* MAKE FOR DAZZLING CELEBRATION FARE



WILD RICE SALAD
See recipe on page 228



Above left: Tony Sly 'Classic Pedestal Bowl' **comport**, $75, The Bay Tree. Rhianne wears 'Carla' dress by Cloth & Co. Above right, from left: Silver pearl **ball**, $24/300mm, silver mercury **ball**, $14/150mm, both Chas Clarkson. Champagne star **candle**, $12/small, LED treetop **star**, $15, jute **stocking**, $10, LED snowflake **garland**, $7.50, all Mediterranean Markets. Mirror, stylist's own. Zinc **letters**, $45 each, Ici Et La. Beaded **wire star**, $89/large, Honeybee Homewares. Ceramic **reindeer**, $26/60mm, My Brother Albert. **Ribbons**, from $4.95, Vandoros Fine Packaging. **Wallpaper** (used as wrapping paper), from $60/roll, Annandale Wallpapers. Opposite: Glass, stylist's own. Raw linen **napkin**, $29, Honeybee Homewares. Marble **board**, $79, Lime Lifestyle. Square **bowl** with spoon, $75/set of 4, 'Cuccina' **plate**, $62, both Hamptons House. Stockists, page 237 >



MARINATED STRIP STEAK SKEWERS
See recipe on page 228

CABBAGE, KALE, ZUCCHINI & APPLE SALAD WITH SMOKED ALMONDS
See recipe on page 230



YOGHURT & COCONUT
PANNA COTTA
WITH POMEGRANATE
See recipe on page 230

IT'S THE *finishing touches* THAT ADD TO THE CHRISTMAS AMBIENCE



MAKE THIS SIMPLE WREATH

Cut a piece of wire to desired length. Bend each end to form a hook shape, then bend wire to create a circle. Hook each end and tighten using needle-nose pliers to secure. Grab a little greenery from the garden and secure to wreath with florist wire. Clip a candleholder to centre, place a candle in holder, then hang.



Opposite: Moulded **jam jars**, $11.95 each, The Bay Tree. Oval metal **tray**, $28, bone-inlay **spoon**, $11 each, both The Lost And Found Department. 'Sir/Madam' **napkin**, $110/set of 4, Grosgrain Homewares. Amy wears Cloth & Co dress and My Island Home necklace as for page 68. Above left, from left: 'Crassula' succulent, $95/300mm, Garden Life. Jute **basket**, $120, Table Tonic. Glass **buoy**, $260, Ici Et La. Whitewash **bench**, $475, Orient House. Panama **hat,** $20, 'Capri' Turkish **towel**, $29, both Big W. 'Barnet Diamond' **cushion**, $70/45cm x 45cm, Globe West. Bensimon **shoes** in White, $80, Honeybee Homewares. 'Shukti' **basket**, $60, Losari. For similar **hook rack**, try Beechwood Furniture. Wreath: For similar wire, visit Bunnings. Silver **candleholder clips**, $9.95/pack, My Christmas. For similar candles, try Big W. Above right: 'Shopper' **tote** in Silver, $189/large, Uashmama. Disco ball, stylist's own. Moroccan leather **pouffe**, $199, Table Tonic. Antique silver **tray**, $169/medium, Burke Home. Lights, stylist's own. Ay Illuminate 'Z5 Bamboo & Cotton' **pendant**, $545, Spence & Lyda. Silver storm **candleholder**, $240/large, Orient House. Cathedral **candle**, $115/medium, The Design Hunter. Wooden **armchair** with rattan seat, $1040, Bisque Interiors. On chair, from top: Antique pumpkin-shaped **decoration** in Silver, $14, silver mercury **ball** with beads, $13/8cm, both My Brother Albert. **Baubles** in Silver and White, $44.95/pack of 16, My Christmas. 'Heart' matt porcelain **decoration**, $1.80, Mediterranean Markets. Wallpapers (used as wrapping **paper**), from $60/roll, Annandale Wallpapers. **Ribbons**, Vandoros Fine Packaging. Silver mercury **ball**, $14/150mm, Chas Clarkson. Stockists, page 237 >

ESCAPE TO A *cosy corner* AT DUSK FOR A QUIET MOMENT



From left: Cathedral **candles**, from $70, 'Lumberjack' **side table** $300, Icelandic **sheepskin**, $295, 'Stitch' linen **cushion**, $210, all The Design Hunter. **Carafe**, $20, Maison Et Jardin. **Goblet**, $90/set of 6, My Island Home. **Fairy lights**, $49.95, My Christmas. Mexican cotton **beach towel** (on seat), $49, Table Tonic. Large hanging star **light**, $403/70cm, My Brother Albert. For a similar French rattan love seat, try The Country Trader. Stockists, page 237 hb

30 YEARS JAIL.
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Teodora, El Salvador

That's a tragedy, not a crime.

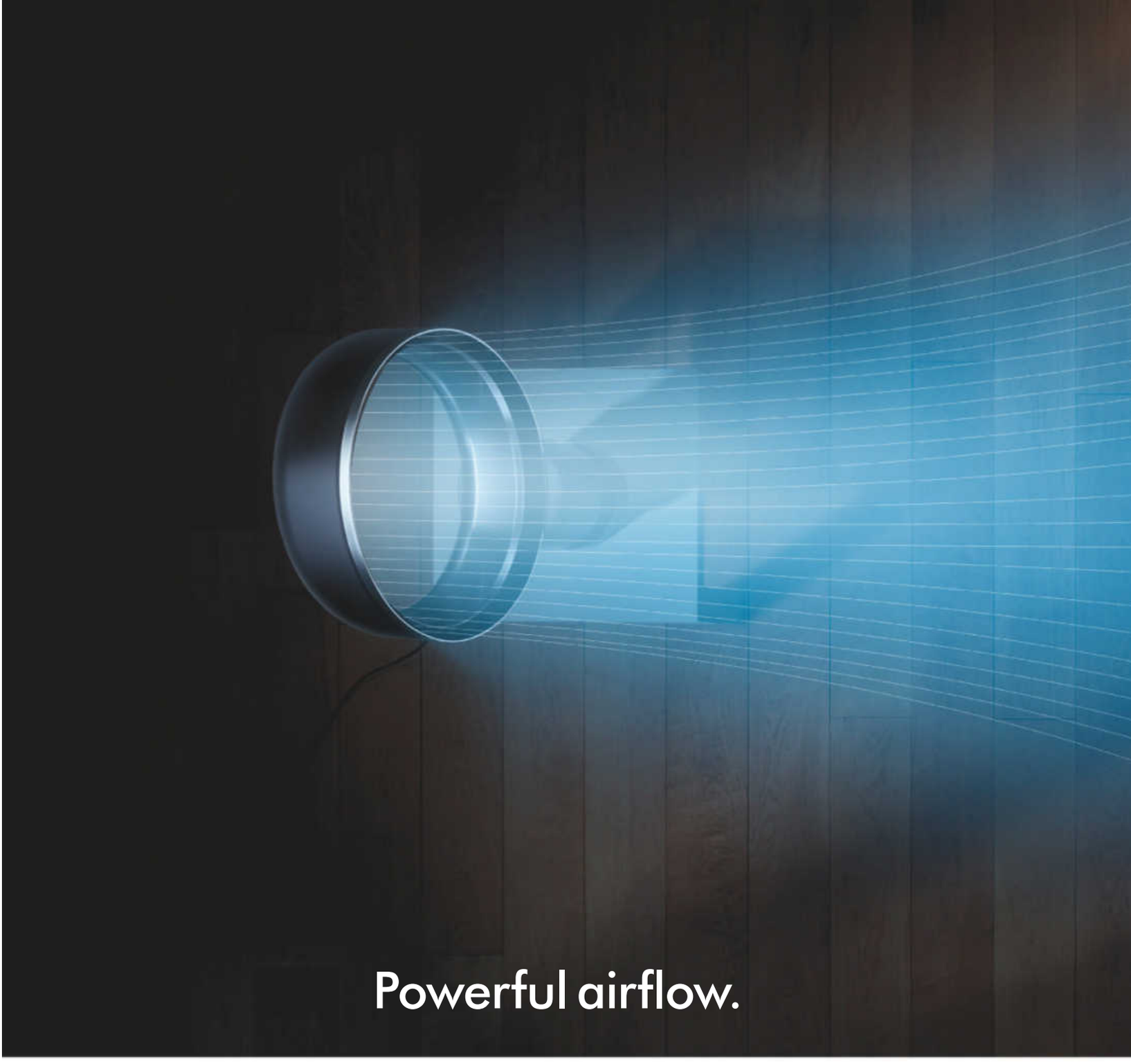
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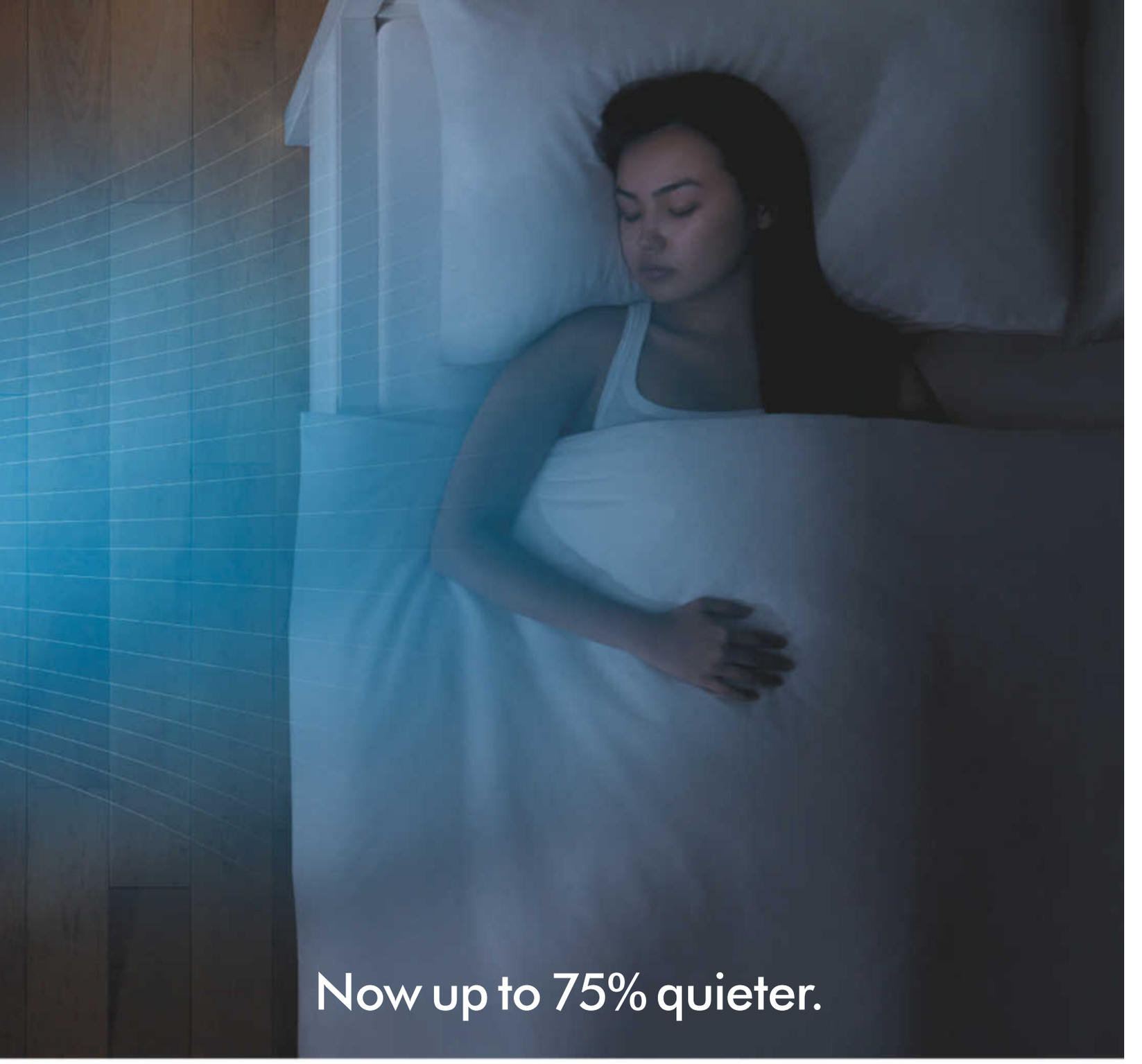
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Delling Entertainment Unit (2 Colours)
$1,150



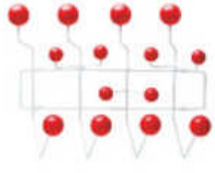
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CARAFE
'Oval Oak' wine carafe, $74.95, Outliving.



PLATTER
'St Tropez' serving platter, $99.95, Talulah.



MIRROR
Round mirror, $19, Kmart.



STORAGE BOX
'The Box' in Pink, $99.95/small, Resident GP.



JUG
Barber & Osgerby 'Olio' jug in Dark Blue, $49.95/medium, Royal Doulton.

PHOTO STANDS
'Geo' photo stands, $60/ set of 3, Social Print Studio.



FOR THE HOME

THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL THAT YOUR 'HOMIES' ARE SURE TO ADORE



HAND TOWEL
'Fine' hand towel in Grey and Natural, $29, Atolyia.

CLOCK
Salt & Pepper 'Zone' metallic clock in Rose Gold, $99.95, Domayne.





FRAME
'Mandala' wooden photo frame, $32.95, Ruby Star Traders.



CANDLE
Phosphenes 'Milk Bottle' soy candle in Coconut and Lime, $29, Inartisan.



VASE
'Ghost' vase, $49/large, The Minimalist.

LUXE BUY



BEANBAG
Mimi's Circus ombré beanbag in Mint and Grey, $159, Design Stuff.

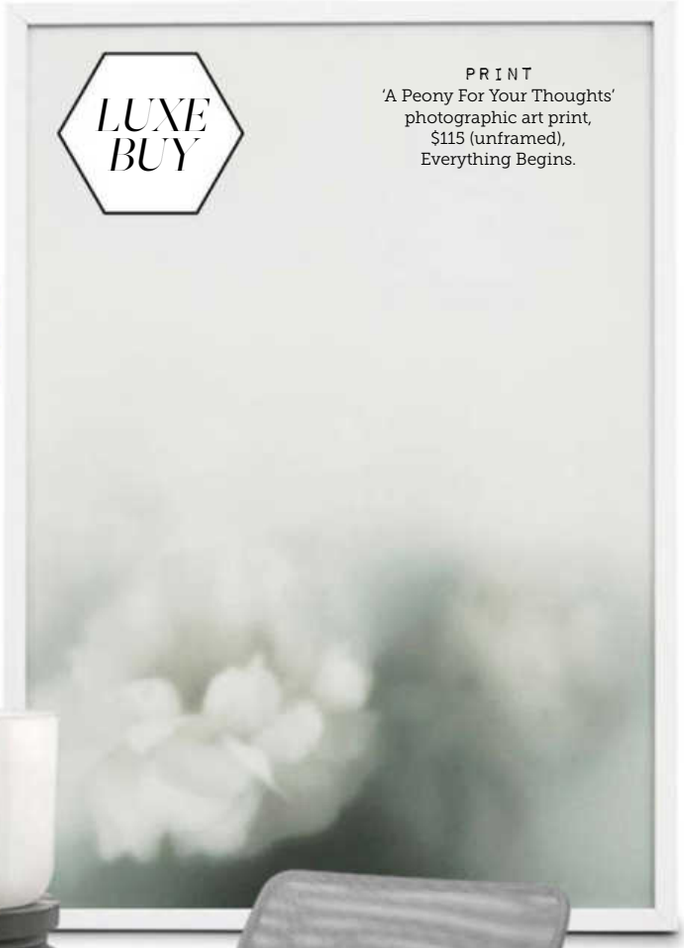


PLANT STAND
Steel triangle-leg plant stand in Blue, $66/800cm, Mr Kitly.

CUSHION
'Delta' linen cushion, $89, The Minimalist.



LUXE BUY



PRINT
'A Peony For Your Thoughts' photographic art print, $115 (unframed), Everything Begins.

CANDLE
'1970' soy candle in Red Spiced Pear, $32.95, Circa Home.



CHAIR
'Nolmyra' easy chair in Grey, $39.99, Ikea.





TOWEL
Aura By Tracie Ellis 'Stripes' bath towel in Black, $34.55, Domayne.





LAUNDRY BAGS
'Whites' and 'Darks' laundry bags, $79 each, Uashmama.



SIDE TABLE
J Elliot Home 'Carraway' copper side table, $99.95, Zanui.



CUSHION
'Vintage Garden' cushion, $79, Urban Road.



PLANT STAND
Ceramic hanging orb and stand, $75/large, Greenhaus Projects. >

ALL THAT GLITTERS

ADD SOME SPARKLE UNDER THE TREE WITH PRESSIES THAT REALLY SHINE



LAMP
'Amali' table lamp in Gold, $99, Freedom.



BAG
Kate Spade New York 'Break the Ice' cooler bag in Gold, $99.95, Outliving.



BOTTLE
S'well insulated drink bottle in Champagne, $39/500ml, Peters Of Kensington.



PRINT
'Beautiful Dreamer' print, $74.95 (unframed), Blacklist Studio.



CANDLE
Soy candle in Fresh Pine Needles, $39.95, Ecoya.



TEACUP
Gold spot teacup in White, $24.95, Lark Store.



STORAGE BAG
'Sax' storage bag in Silver, $39.95/large, Freedom.



PHOTO FRAMES
DOIY 'Polaframes' in Golden, $29.95/set of 6, Shop Until.



POT POUCH
Kate Marsh 'Geo' pot pouch in Gold, $39.95, Cranmore Home.



CUTLERY
Copper cutlery, $495/ 24-piece set, Scout House.

LUXE BUY



CUSHION
'Kolmio' cushion in Gold, $49.95, Aura by Tracie Ellis. >



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LUXE BUY

YOGA MAT
'Bloom' yoga mat, $129, Kamuka.





TEAPOT
Robert Gordon 'Tea For Two' in Copper, $46.95, Domayne.



DIARY
2016 A5 leather diary in Watermelon, $39.95, Kikki K.



HAMMOCK
'Amana' hammock chair, $89.90, Citta Design.



BAGS
'Harvest' shopping bags in Black, $62.95/set of 2, Robert Gordon.



CANDLE
'Belvedere' vessel candle in Copper, $70, SoH Melbourne.

FOR HER

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BODY TREATMENT
'Geranium Leaf Hydrating Body Treatment', $35/100ml, Aesop.



TRAY TABLE
Home Republic 'Mekong' tray table in Blush, $59.95, Adairs.



BEACH TOWEL
'Helsinki' beach towel in Anthracite, $64.95, Country Road. >



PURSES
Pochettes in Silver, from $54, Uashmama.



BOX
'Hex' box in Bronze Mirror, $50/medium, Spence & Lyda.



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PRINT
'Noosa' circle print, $89 (unframed), Burbia.



TUMBLERS
Marc Newson unbreakable whisky tumblers, $35.80/set of 4, Hard To Find.



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Pantone coffee maker in Vintage Blue, $59.95, Zanui.

LUXE BUY



BIKE
Vintage-style single-speed bike in Aston, $499, Chappelli.



LAPTOP BAG
'Loop' pannier laptop bag in Umber, $99.95, Po Campo.



IPHONE DOCK
Areaware alarm dock in Blue, $27.25, Monster Threads.



GADGET
Gentlemen's Hardware 'Master of All Trades' multi-tool, $69.95, Shop Until.



SHOE SHINE KIT
Ted Baker 'Brogue Shoe Shine Kit', $79.95, Shop Until.



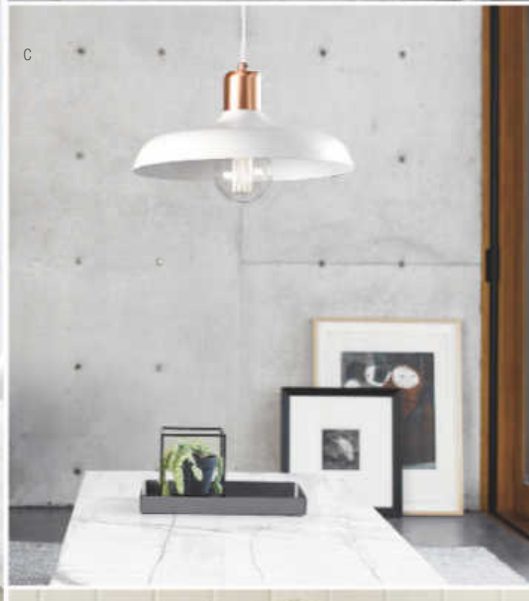
BEER FOAMER
Menu beer foamer, $99, Top 3 By Design. >



this SUMMER
lighting is all about texture

LAYERING MATERIALS such as copper, concrete, brass, marble and embracing BOLD NEW SHAPES as seen in this LED Circa pendant.





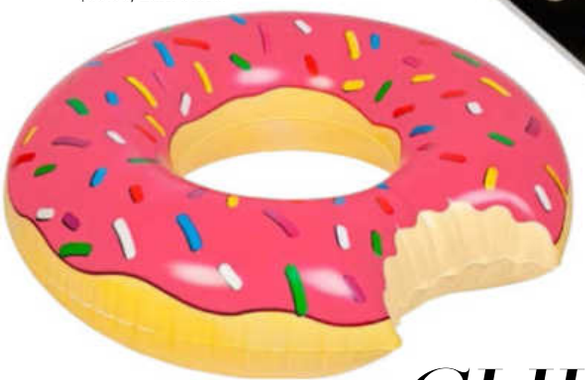


A. LEDlux Circa Ring ***NEW*** 35 watt medium dimmable LED pendant in black $695. Also available in small $595 and large $895. **B. Wave LED** 132cm fan with LED light in dark koa wood finish $499. Also available in white $489. **C. Croft** 1 light metal pendant in chalk with brushed copper detailing $169. Also available in ash, mint or black. Karbon G95 decorative filament globe sold separately $16.95. **D. Monlue** ***NEW*** Conical table lamp in copper and black $189. Also available brass and black.

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Wooden camera in Sage Green, $60, Plyroom.

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Modern Twist 'Farm to Table' Mark Mat, $49.95, Shop Until.





CUSHION
Oyoy penguin cushion, $69.95, Design Stuff.

CAMPERVAN
IS smartphone-controlled VW Campervan, $63.90, The Design Gift Shop.





FLAG
'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' felt flag, $31, Toodles Noodles.

LUXE BUY



TEEPEE
'Chevron' teepee in Blue and White, $199.95, Bed, Bath N' Table.



BOWLING SET
Mushroom bowling set, $56.50, Muddy Feet on Etsy.



PRINT
'ABC' poster, $29/42cm x 59cm, Hello Polly. >

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The NOPI Cookbook by Yotam Ottolenghi and Ramael Scully, $59.99, David Jones.

POT
'Kastrull' pot in Green, $29.99, Ikea.

LUXE BUY

CUTLERY
'Boston' cutlery, $45/set of 4, Indigo Love Collectors.

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Tumblers in Valley Glaze, $78/set of 2, Clay Canoe.

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Nespresso by KitchenAid coffee machine in Almond Cream, $799, Nespresso.

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'Scanwood' salt boxes, $9.95/small, $24.95/large, Simon Johnson.

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'Moroccan' shopper, $39.90, Citta Design.

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Home Republic 'Linear' tea towels, $19.95/pack of 2, Adairs.

PAPER-TOWEL HOLDER
Bloomingville paper-towel holder, $39, Simple Form.

HANDWASH
'Therapy Kitchen Hand Wash' in Lemongrass, Lime and Bergamot, $23.95, David Jones.





MEASURING SPOONS
Copper measuring spoons, $24/set of 4, West Elm.



TRIVET
Wooden button trivet, $40, Home Apparel.



TEA TOWEL
'Zig Zag' tea towel, $39, Pony Rider.



ROLLING PIN
Embossing rolling pin, $48.25, Valek Rolling Pins on Etsy.



SALT CELLAR
Salt cellar, $22.50 (includes spoon), Heaven In Earth.

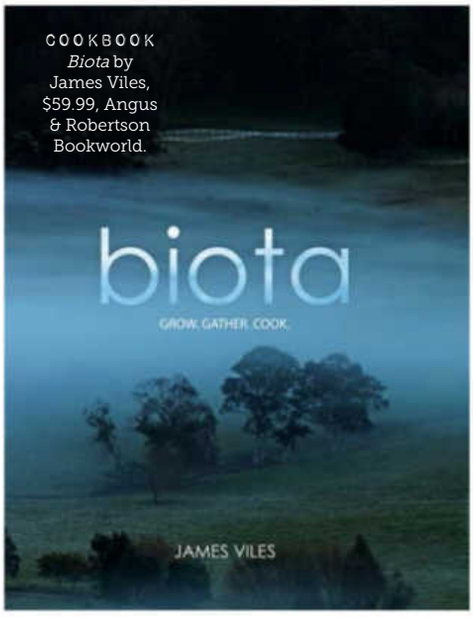


LUXE BUY

FOOD WHIZ
Cuisine Companion, $1699, Tefal.



LUNCH BAG
Lunch bag in Grey, $79, Uashmama.



COOKBOOK
Biota by James Viles, $59.99, Angus & Robertson Bookworld.



SALAD SERVERS
Copper salad servers, $66, Lightly.



MEASURING JUG
Enamel measuring jug, $48.50, Heaven In Earth.



CANISTER
'Olsen' canister in Marble Grey, $30/20cm, Frankie & Coco. >



FORK & TROWEL
Florence Broadhurst fork and trowel in Spotted Floral Greens, $39.95 each, Urban Cave.



VERTICAL PLANTERS
Vertical planters, $32.95 each, Biome Eco Stores.



LANTERN
'Atrium' brass lantern, $59.95/large, Freedom.



PLANTER
'Blue Mountain' hanging planter, $59, Hang With Me Ceramics on Etsy.

RUG
'Chevron' outdoor rug in Grey, $70, Fenton & Fenton.



HAMMOCK
Handmade cotton hammock, $225, Down That Little Lane.



LAMP
Eva Solo 'Sun Light' table lamp, $99.95, Zanui.

FEEDER
XD Design 'Tweet' bird feeder, $49.95, Optoco.

LUXE BUY

OUTDOORS

SPOIL GREEN THUMBS WITH THESE CLEVER IDEAS FOR THE GARDEN



TOOL ROLL
Hessian tool roll, $80 (including 3 tools), Heaven In Earth.



DOORMAT
Bloomingville 'Welcome/Goodbye' doormat, $84, Design Stuff.

WATERING CAN
'I Garden Therefore I Am' watering can, $69.95, Zanui.





PLANTER
'Socker' plant pots with stand, $29.99, Ikea. >



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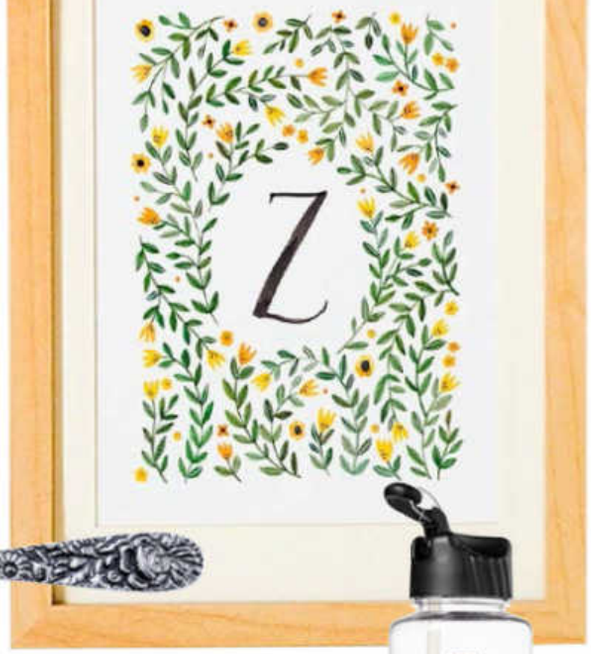
CHRISTMAS SACK
'European' initialled Christmas sack in White, $54.95, Bombardier Designs.

PRINT
Letter "Z" art print, $20 (unframed), Amelia Herbertson on Etsy.



TOWEL
Monogrammed 'Palais' Turkish cotton bath towel, $69.95, Sheridan.







KEY RINGS
Monogrammed leather key rings, $10 each, Vantler Leather on Etsy.

BUTTER KNIFE
'Spread the Love' monogrammed butter knife, $36, The Cutlery Commission.



HOT TYPE

PERSONALISE YOUR PRESENTS WITH A LETTER OR TWO OF INTRODUCTION



BOTTLE
'Alpha' drink bottle, $12.99, Typo.

BOARD
Personalised 'Gumleaf' serving board, $88, Manual Arts Dept.



BAG
Monogrammed 'Graham Weekender' leather travel bag, $973, Mark And Graham.



LUXE BUY

CUPS
Arne Jacobsen 'Design Letters' melamine cups, $18 each, Simple Form.





LETTER
Letter "H" sign, $12, The Woodsfolk.

POUCH
Monogrammed leather pouch in Black, $99, Mon Purse.





RING
Initial ring in sterling silver, $55, Ginny Reynders on Etsy.



LUGGAGE TAG
Monogrammed leather luggage tag in Gold, $50, Papier D'Amour. >



BAG
Letter bag in Natural, $27, Alphabet Bags.



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PLANTER
Patrick Morris for Boskke 'Sky Planter', $55/small, Design For Use.

WALL PEGS
Mark Tuckey 'MT' wooden wall pegs, $29.95/set of 2, Cotton On.

SHELF
'Yellow Bird' metal shelf, $54.95, Raw Space.

CHOPPING BOARD
'Cloud' breadboard in Beechwood, $40, Home Apparel.



TEA TOWEL
'Dreamy Kid' linen tea towel, $69, Castle.

BRIGHT FUN

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LUXE BUY



AUDIO PLAYER
'TSX-B235D' desktop audio system in White, $499, Yamaha.



CUSHION
'Firewheel' cushion in Earth, $75, Utopia Goods.



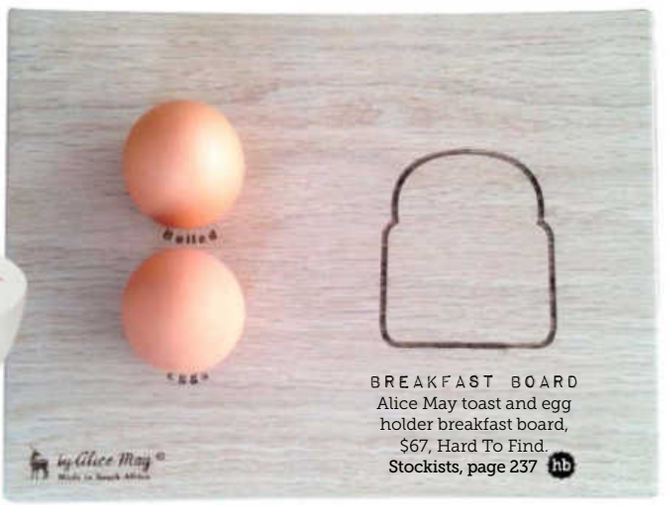
PEELER
'Karoto' vegetable peeler, $24, Zoxoro.



STORAGE BOWLS
Orla Kiely storage bowls in Peppermint/Greengage, $79.95/set of 3, Hard To Find.



MEASURING CUPS
'Duck' measuring cups, $29.95/set of 4, Raw Space.



BREAKFAST BOARD
Alice May toast and egg holder breakfast board, $67, Hard To Find.
Stockists, page 237 hb

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FEATURE PHOTO: **Jaipur** Quilt Cover Set Queen $169set, **Narbonne White** European Sham $29.95ea, **Cabrita** Cushion $29.95, **Coastline** Cushion Coral $39.95, **Oxley Stripe** Cushion Taupe $24.95, **Lennox** Cushion $29.95, **Studio** Vase Large $24.95, **Nordic** Photo Frame Large $24.95, **Venus** Stool $110ea, **Midnight** Candle Holder Large $29.95, **Hasting** Candle Holder $54.95, **Noosa** Lantern Small $89.95 Large $124.95, **Juno** Lantern Small $34.95 Large $44.95, **Atlantic** Floor Rug $179 **1. Nordic** Photo Frame Small $19.95 **2. Bermuda Range** Photo Frames from $14.95ea Coasters $4.95ea **3. Mariner** Bottle Small $12.95 Large $14.95 **4. Sabine** Table $110 **5. Carlisle** Clock from $39.95 **6. Riviera** Vase Diamond $19.95 Matchstick $24.95 **7. Marine** Pillar Holder $19ea **8. Harbour** Lantern Small $24.95 Large $36.95 **9. Imperial** Pouf Indigo $129 **10. Abby** Table Lamp $99.95 **11. Willow** Stem $12.95 **12. Little Cove Stripe** Cushion Aqua $34.95 **13. Recycled Canvas** Crab Cushion $29.95 **14. Ombre** Cushion Coral $34.95 **15. Tide** Glass Bouy $19.95 NB: Not all items are available online or in all stores.

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YAMAHA

Main street mainstays

This month we hit Australia's most popular chain stores to uncover hidden gems and savvy style buys

WORDS **ANNA McCOOE**



Bargain hub: H&M's Melbourne store.

GREAT SHOPPING MIGHT be closer to home than expected. At any given shopping strip or centre, the big-name stores are upping their game with in-vogue design at irresistible prices. Between in-house design teams producing on-trend loveliness and a slew of high-end collaborations, we're taking a fresh look at the chain stores we've so often taken for granted.



SHOP 1: Typo

Fellow stationery tragics would understand the allure of a Typo window, and now, a new collection of homewares will turn style-philes into regulars, too. Since launching in Victoria in 2009, Typo has expanded to more than 145 stores across 10 countries. Its team of designers and illustrators work closely with Typo's trend forecaster and buyers to put a new spin on top trends: think painterly printed cushions, marquee lights and all-things rose gold.

Must-haves: (at right, from left) 'Watermelon' bath mat, $34.99; 'Suitcase' record player, $179.99; 'Copper Hexe' glass terrarium, $49.99; 'Industrial' lamp in Rose Gold, $59.99.

Shop: NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Vic and WA, and online; cottonon.com/AU/shop-by-brand/typo/.





SHOP 2: Target

Target's homewares are so terrifically chic, you would expect high-end price tags on these clever designs. The store's style step-up began about 18 months ago, when design manager Bruce Summers introduced a new in-house creative team. "We watch what's happening in fashion and what people are seeing and loving online and in the media to make sure we're rolling out the trends our customers want," he explains. This summer sees the launch of Target's brand, TLE (The Limited Edition), as well as two new outdoor ranges.

Must-haves: (above, from left) LTD ceramic ice cream cups and spoons, $15/set of 4; Lisa T 'Baroque' bottles, $10 each; 'Giant Plastic Cup' stool, $12.

Shop: Nationwide and online; target.com.au.

SHOP 3: Big W

Basics by well-known designers are a major drawcard at Big W. Fashion king Peter Morrissey is selling his home collection at bargain prices despite the high levels of tastefulness and the range's breezy holiday vibe. Garden lovers will appreciate Jamie Durie's outdoor products while cooks will eat up Jamie Oliver's serving ware.

Must-haves: (below, from left) Peter Morrissey Turkish beach towels, $29 each, round towel, $39; Jamie Oliver bowls, $8/medium.

Shop: Nationwide and online; bigw.com.au. >



SHOP 4 : *Officeworks*

The shift towards flexible work has changed the game for this office supply megastore. Over the past 12 months, the company's Melbourne-based merchandising team has travelled the world talking to trend forecasters, new brands and designers in an effort to "bridge the 'runway to workspace' trend," as Officeworks' sourcing and design manager, Alex Staley, explains. We love the new collaboration with the master of feel-good design, American Jonathan Adler. Officeworks is also extending its offerings from London-based Irish designer Orla Kiely, and releasing a new range of hand-stitched leather phone cases from South Korean brand Wetherby.
Must-haves: (below, from left) Jonathan Adler pencil case, $14.99, and document tray, $14.99.
Shop: Nationwide and online; officeworks.com.au.



Head to your local shopping centre for a trolley-load of home essentials and decorating delights



SHOP 5 : *Kmart*

Kmart's fashionable yet affordable homeware revolution isn't exactly new, but the Spring/Summer collection of indoor and outdoor wares really brings it home. The look is vibrant, modern and inspired by travel, with "rude not to" prices. "We've taken inspiration from destinations such as Brazil and Mexico, where print and colour clash together beautifully," says Julie Miller-Sensini, who heads up Kmart's homewares team. Look out for woven rugs in natural fibres, spindly geometric side tables and timber hanging shelves.
Must-haves: (from top) Round jute rug, $29; 'Dipped' basket in White, $19; plant stand in Copper, $6; basket in Copper, $12.
Shop: Nationwide and online; kmart.com.au.



SHOP 6 : *H&M*

This fast-fashion pioneer knows a thing or two about delivering affordable products to a discerning market. The current homewares collection ranges from of-the-moment accessories to quality basics in muted colours and natural fibres. H&M may not be in every shopping centre just yet, but the Swedish giant is rapidly rolling out across the country, with new stores planned for Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Think of H&M as your new go-to for kids' rooms, table decorations and for indulging decor whims.
Must-haves: (below, clockwise from top left) Felt storage basket in Grey, $19.95/large; washed cotton duvet set in Blue, $29.95/single; 'Extra Virgin Olive Oil' wooden box, $19.95; linen cushion cover, $19.95.
Shop: Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.





SHOP 7 : *Ikea*

The Swedish retailer's design credentials are well-established, but its latest product releases are truly next level. Take, for instance, the 'Sinnerlig' collection, developed in partnership with London's reigning queen of laid-back style, Ilse Crawford. Ikea also promises news of some very cool collaborations early next year. In the meantime, you can get your democratic design fix with the brand's flat-woven rugs and considered accessories.
Must-haves: (above, from left) 'Sprallis' wall clock, $24.99; 'Tjusig' hanger in White, $14.99; 'Radviken' armchair, $249.
Shop: Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and a Canberra location opening soon. Pick-up locations in Tasmania and Wollongong.



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open season

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STYLING **JOHN MANGILA** PHOTOGRAPHY **NATALIE HUNFALVAY**



1. Freckle **stocking** in Red, $47.25, The Bay Tree. 2. Felt **stocking** with snowflakes in Ivory, $59.95, Ruby Star Traders. 3. Velvet and fur **stocking** in Grey, $14.99, Spotlight. 4. Spot-trimmed **stocking** with monogram tag, $44, Flora & Ceres. 5. Paper **stocking**, $25, Paper Couture. 6. Jute **stocking** with star, $25, Papier D'Amour. 7. By Nord **stocking** in Birch, $69.95, Stem. 8. Hand-embroidered **stocking**, $29.95, Oxfam Shop. 9. 'Pet Dog' **stocking**, $19.95, Bed, Bath N' Table. 10. 'Paws' **stocking**, $19.95, Mozi. Accessories (from left): Metal **tub**, $39, **stool** in Red, $139, both Honeybee Homewares. **Ribbon** on tub, $30/30m roll, brass 'S' **hooks** (on stockings), $5 each, all The Lost And Found Department. 'Joyeux Noël' Santa **sack**, $80, Flora & Ceres. Initialled Santa **sack**, $45, Papier D'Amour. Rattan **ladders**, $89.90 each, Lime Lifestyle. 'Quintessential' glass **baubles**, $29.95/set of 4, 'Lyra' wood star, $39.95, all Freedom. Stripe and dot pillow **boxes**, $3 each, Paper 2. Craft **boxes**, from $1.99 each, Spotlight. Ribbon, stylist's own. Paper **wreath**, $125, Paper Couture. Stockists, page 237


We all have to rise in the morning.
But it's the ones sleeping
on the right mattress
who get to
shine.
Wake Up Wonderful
Forty Winks

good greetings

Ten divine festive cards to help spread the Christmas love

STYLING **JOHN MANGILA** PHOTOGRAPHY **NATALIE HUNFALVAY**



1. 'Naughty Or Nice?' **card**, $35/pack of 10, Papier D'Amour. 2. Earth Greetings 'Peace On Earth' **card**, $15.95/mixed pack of 10, Pulp Creative Paper. 3. 'The Stockings Were Hung' **card**, $35/pack of 10, Papier D'Amour. 4. 'Eat, Drink And Be Merry' **card**, $6.95, Mozi. 5. 'Santa' **card**, $9.95/mixed pack of 10, Bed, Bath N' Table. 6. 'Fabric Of Life' **card**, $7.95, The Bay Tree. 7. 'Ikat Diamond' **card**, $4.95, Ruby Star Traders. 8. 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' **card**, $16.95/pack of 5, Kikki K. 9. Large blue **card**, $8.50, Paper 2. 10. 'Woodland Twinkle' **card**, $7.95, Bespoke Letterpress. Accessories: Glass **stars** in Spearmint, $4.95/small, $7.95/large, copper Christmas **trees**, $17.95/small, $25.95/large, all Ruby Star Traders. Vintage stone preserve **pots**, $90/small, $220/large, Quintessential Duckeggblue. Mini **decorations** in White, $2.20 each, Lime Lifestyle. Paper **houses**, $50/set of 5, Paper Couture. Table, stylist's own. Stockists, page 237

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trinket time

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... and decorate the tree with a selection of these chic baubles

COMPILED BY **JOHN MANGILA**

BARGAIN BUYS



Wire and glass **hearts**, $4.95 each, Paper 2.



Reindeer **head**, $4.90, Lime Lifestyle.



Fan **disc** in White and Gold, $3.95, Ruby Star Traders.

MID-RANGE



Wooden **car**, $7.95, Kikki K.



'Noel' glass **stars**, $8.95 each, Country Road.



Hand-painted Christmas **tree**, $9.95, The Bay Tree.

SPLASH OUT

Porcelain dog-face **bauble**, $30, Quintessential Duckeggblue.
Stockists, page 237 >



Wombat, $12, Papier D'Amour.



Ceramic **bird**, $29.95, Mozi.



"Opening your box of Christmas *decorations* can be like opening a door to the past... we all have pieces with *special* meaning" - John Mangila, stylist

BARGAIN BUYS



Straw **balls** with coloured string, $5 each, Papier D'Amour.

J&J sparkly **deer**, $2.99, Spotlight.





Glass **drop**, $5, Paper Couture.

MID-RANGE



Metallic **diamond**, $7.95, Domayne.



Glass **ball** with glitter dots, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table.

Honeycomb **tree** with crystals, $8.95, Pentimento.



SPLASH OUT



Maileg 'Pixy' **figurines**, $22 each (micro), Nordic Fusion.



Beaded **stocking**, $12.95, Oxfam Shop.



Felt **dove**, $14.95, Stem. Stockists, page 237 hb

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ABOVE:
HOMEWARES White Advent Calendar, $29.95; White House Garland, $32.95.
ORNAMENTS Diamond Wire Hanging Ornament, $11.95; Meadow Faux Fur White Animals (Set of 4), $9.95; Wooden Tree Ornaments in Gold/Natural, $5.95 each; Deer Head Ornament in Oxford Blue, $5.95; Wooden Star Ornaments in Gold/Natural, $5.95 each; Stripey Tree Ornaments in Red/White, $4.95 each; Wire Hanging Ornament, $11.95; Meadow Faux Fur Grey Squirrel (Set of 2), $9.95; Gold-Dipped Pyramid Ornaments in Gold/Natural, $5.95 each.

LEFT:
HOMEWARES Green Christmas Tree, $629.95; Wooden Tree Stumps (Set of 3), $129.95; Driftwood Stools (Small), $49.95 each, and (Large), $169.95; Driftwood Trees (Small), $29.95 each, and (Large), $49.95; Reindeer Horns on Jute Hanger, $29.95; Golden Spots Hessian Garlands, $29.95 each; Flag Foil Cushion, $39.95; Geometric Web Foil Cushion, $39.95; Kolmio Cushion, $49.95; Apex Cushion in Gold, $54.95; Margaret Round Rug, $229.95; Gold Styrofoam Deers (Set of 2), $69.95; Xmas Light, $54.95; Noel Light, $54.95; White Globe Garland, $29.95.
ORNAMENTS Libby Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each; Geo Pentagon Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each, Kimball Geo Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each; Betty Glass Ornaments, $7.95 each; Geo Diamond Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each; Radical Geo Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each; Chloe Drop Glass Ornaments, $6.95 each; Elin Stone Glass Ornaments, $7.95 each; Agate Stone Glass Ornaments, $7.95 each; Flower Drop Glass Ornaments, $8.95 each; Stripey Glass Ornaments in Red/White, $8.95 each; Ho, Ho, Ho Glass Ornaments in Red/White, $5.95 each; Wool Fox Ornaments, $7.95 each; Gold Star Ornament, $5.95. All other items stylist's own.

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HOMEWARES Dane Resin White Trunk Trivets (Set of 2), $149.95; Glow Dinner Plates in Gold, $26.95 each, and Side Plates, $22.95 each; Host 16-Piece Cutlery Set in Gold, $199.95; Salut Champagne Flutes (Set of 6), $39.95; Salut White Wine Glasses (Set of 6), $39.95; Geo Candle Holders (Small), $9.95, and (Large), $12.95; Geo Dec Hanging Ornaments, $7.95 each. All other items stylist's own.

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FURNITURE Ayers Dining Table, $3399; Toli Carver Chairs in White, $169 each; Toli Dining Chairs in White, $129 each.
HOMEWARES Vertical Foliage Walls (1 x 1m), $179.95 each; Paper Trees (1.2m), $149.95, and (1.8m), $219.95; Diamond Shaped Candle Holders in Gold, $69.95 each; Society Cake Stand, $59.95; Marble-Look Porcelain Dinner Plates, $9.95 each, and Side Plates, $7.95 each; Simplicity 56-Piece Cutlery Set, $229.95; Frost Champagne Flutes (Set of 4), $49.95; Frost Red Wine Glasses (Set of 4), $49.95; Glow Dimple Candles in Gold and Copper, $14.95 each.
ORNAMENTS Diamond-Shaped Ornaments (Small), $7.95 each, and (Large), $7.95 each; Dipped Gold Glass Ornaments, $9.95 each.
All other items stylist's own.

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deck
the halls...
HOMEWARES View Domes (Small), $199, and (Large), $249; Gold Metallic Trees (Small), $14.95 (Medium), $24.95, and (Tall), $54.95; Foundry Verbena & Patchouli Candle, $64.99; Diamond-Shaped Tealight Holders (Small), $10.95 each; Birch Candles (Wide), $29.95 each.
ORNAMENTS Diamond-Shaped Ornaments (Small), $7.95 each; Copper Ribbed Ball Ornaments (3 Assorted), $10.95.
All other items stylist's own.
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HOMEWARES Pre-lit Wild Pine 300 Lights 7-ft Tree in White, $599; Diamond Lanterns in Copper (Medium), $29.95, and (Large), $49.95; Foundry Bergamont & Mahogany Candles (Small), $49.98, and (Large), $64.99.
ORNAMENTS Hanging Wool Fox Ornaments, $9.95 each, Hanging Fox Pockets, $9.95 each, Hanging Reindeer Pockets, $9.95 each. All other items stylist's own.



Ice Blue Dipped Stars, $5.95 each; Diamond Drop Ornament in Ice Blue/Natural, $5.95; Ice Blue Cut-Out Star Ornament, $5.95; Diamond Drop Ornament in Gold/Natural, $5.95. All other items stylist's own.



Natural Deer Heads, $39.95 each. All other items stylist's own.



Side Painted Christmas Tree, $22.95; Shine Lantern Houses in Copper (Small), $24.95, and (Large), $45; Dipped Candle Stick in Copper, $24.95; Black Star Christmas Tree, $29.95; Scandi Table Top Tree in Dove Grey, $29.95. All other items stylist's own.


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STYLING (BACKGROUND) RACHEL PETERS. PHOTOGRAPHY (BACKGROUND) NATALIE HUNFALVAY

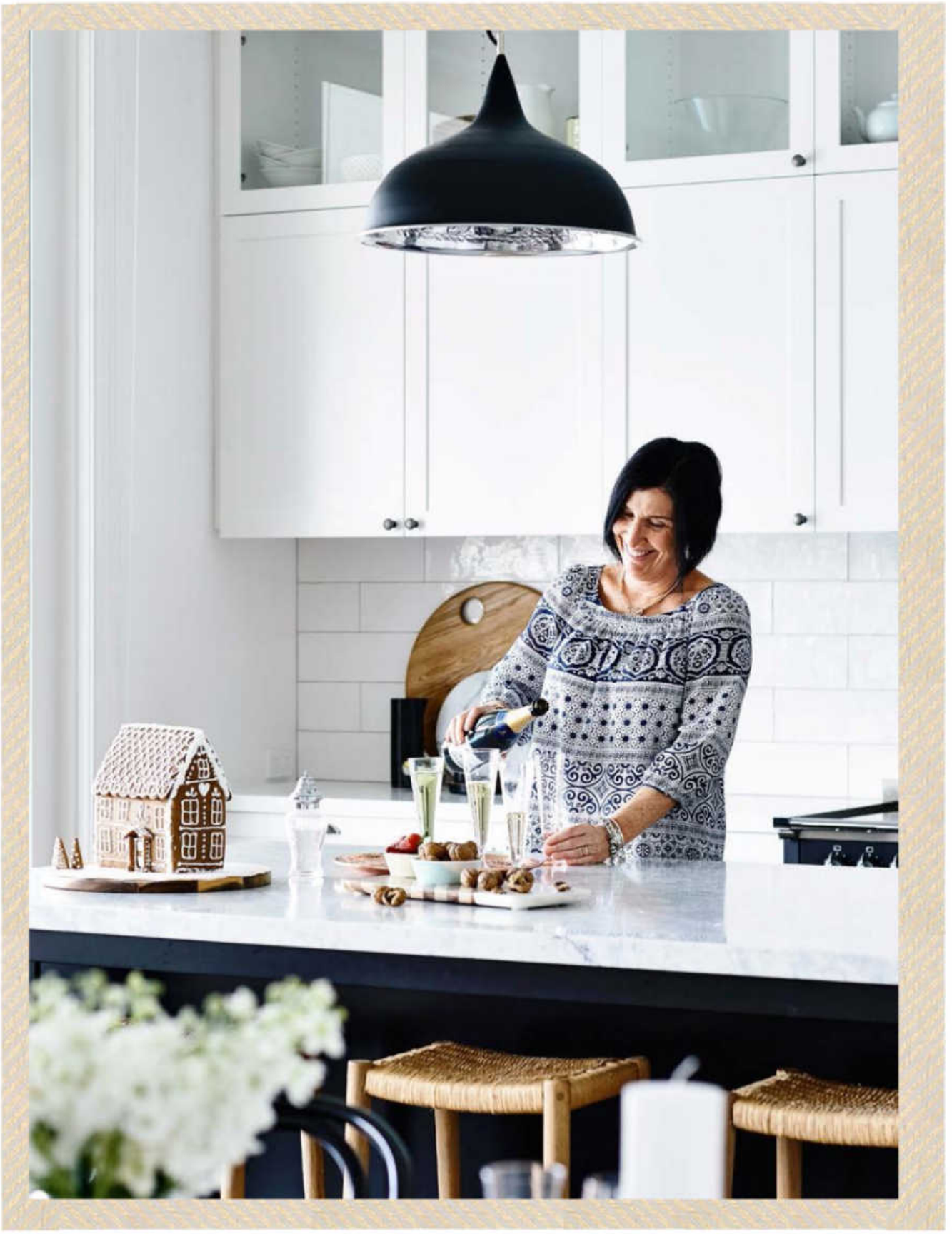
bright christmas

The classic neutrals of this Melbourne home provide the perfect backdrop for the festive season's joyful colour

STORY **SHELLEY TUSTIN** STYLING **JO McCOMISKEY** PHOTOGRAPHY **DEREK SWALWELL**

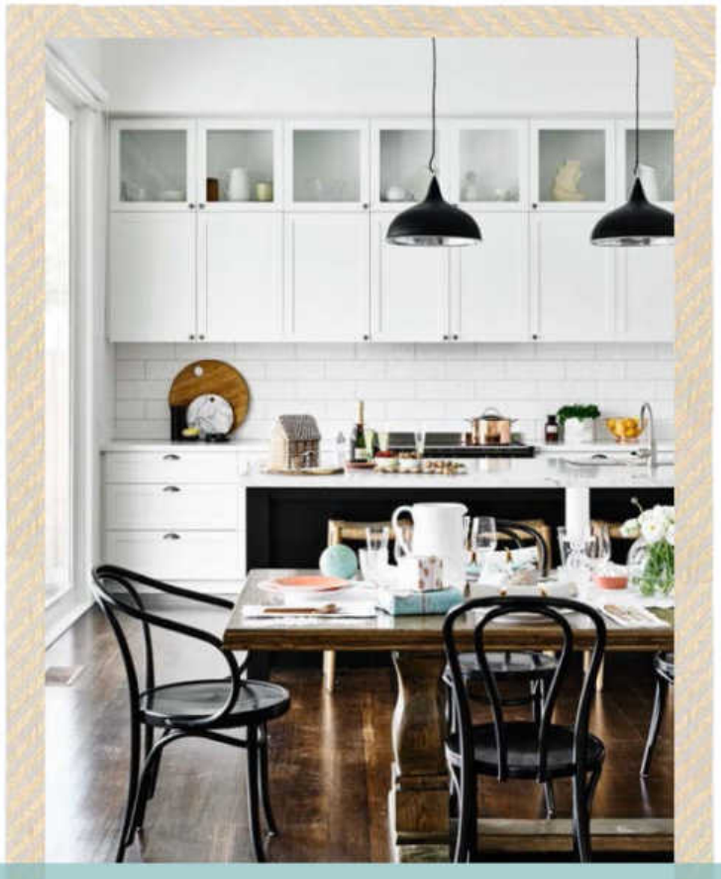


RUG
Vintage overdyed patchwork rug, from $1800/240cm x 170cm, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets.



In the gleaming new kitchen of her transformed Melbourne home, Ruth {above} gets in the festive spirit with bubbles and the family's gingerbread house, traditionally made by her three teenagers with help from their grandmother. The Yuletide mood extends into the adjacent living room {opposite}, where a Christmas tree from My Christmas stands sentinel on the Victorian ash floorboards. The boards, stained dark chocolate, provide dramatic contrast to the room's neutral pieces, including the slouchy couches from Jardan and a set of nesting coffee tables from Rose St Trading Co. >

(OPPOSITE) ARTWORK, *DESERT CLOUD* BY PETER ROSSON. WHITE HAMPER WITH LEATHER HANDLES AND BREADBOARD, BOTH CRATE EXPECTATIONS. HANGING WHITE STARS, CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



They say travel broadens the mind but for Ruth, Eric and their three teenage children, it also provided a little European know-how for beautifully simple Christmases at home. "We had a white Christmas in Germany and Austria a couple of years ago, which was such a special thing to do with the kids," says Ruth about the memorable trip with Henry, now 18, Emily, 16, and Isabelle, 14. "Christmas is amazing there, with the markets and celebrations. It really inspired us and is part of the reason we love the festive season so much in our house."

Imbibing their Melbourne home with Yuletide spirit is that much more joyful since the completion of a recent renovation, which transformed the rear of this graceful Victorian property into a light-filled vision of modern classic design. Having lived here happily for eight years, the family had no intention of moving, but the old-fashioned layout of the 1886 home lacked a few key features: open spaces for entertaining – especially at Christmas-time – a retreat for growing children, and a connection to the outdoors, particularly the pool at the rear.

The road to renovated bliss was a long one, with two architects failing to impress before the couple found designer Jo McIntyre of Beautiful Home. "We were ready to sign on the dotted line with a builder and thought, 'We are spending all this money and the design isn't our dream home.' But within two weeks of engaging Jo, we had our perfect house," Ruth recalls. >

"DECORATING A HOUSE IS AN *evolving* PROCESS. YOU DO IT *over time* AND YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT" ~ RUTH





TABLE SETTING {left} "I do like a modern setting, but my table is always different," says Ruth. For Christmas lunch, Royal Doulton plates from The Works add a pop of colour against white linen napery and a white wooden tree from Celebrating Christmas. The table itself is a statement, with a beautiful parquetry top and enough room for 14 people.

(THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) MARBLE COASTERS, THE WORKS. COPPER CUTLERY, TURNER AND LANE. LACE SNOWFLAKES, CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS. (OPPOSITE) FABRIC STORAGE BAG (WITH HERBS), OXZYDE



WE LOVE

Textured tiles

It's the small details that bring this kitchen to life. White tiles are a highly versatile choice for a splashback, suited to both modern and traditional kitchens. The gloss 'Mottle' tiles ($128/sqm, Perini) used here have a subtle texture that resembles handmade ceramic tiles and add a feeling of real luxury.

KITCHEN {this page & opposite, top left & bottom right} Ruth wanted to retain some traditional elements in the extension to give the home a sense of continuity and flow. Designer Jo achieved this in the kitchen with Shaker-style cabinetry (by Creative Cabinets) and pewter drawer pulls, adding a bold shot of black around the island bench to underpin a beautiful slab of Carrara marble. The black is echoed in the elegant 'Tear Drop' embossed pendants from My Brother Albert. The butler's pantry at the rear is an entertainer's dream – ideal for food preparation and hiding dinner-party detritus – and its open shelves display pretty Charlene Mullen for Royal Doulton plates.



FABRIC

Get the look with Pegasus 'Bowden' in Berry, from $59/m, James Dunlop Textiles.

< The warren of rooms at the rear was demolished to make way for a more contemporary design: an open-plan kitchen/living area opening to a generous covered deck, and an upstairs teen retreat with three bedrooms, a family room and multi-zoned bathroom. The front rooms, oozing heritage charm, were preserved, with a few minor improvements to maximise the light. "The traditional Victorian hallway is quite narrow, so we put in double doorways to all the rooms, which gives the impression of a much grander, wider entrance," says Ruth.

All this light, combined with a base palette of snowy white, provides the perfect backdrop for more lively hues, particularly at Christmas, when the family goes bauble-mad. "Now that the kids are older, they do a lot of the decorating," Ruth says. Even when they were small, their mum embraced their enthusiastic, if aesthetically wobbly, skills. "I love having them involved."

For their first Christmas in the revamped home last year, all of the family's relatives came from Adelaide to help celebrate. "We had a huge lunch on the deck," says Ruth. "We had the double oven and the built-in barbecue going… and it was great that everyone could work together in the kitchen." But the most precious of Christmas traditions for the family is decorating a gingerbread house, with Ruth's mother and her grandchildren getting together to bake and decorate this very special Christmas lunch centrepiece. "Even though they're teenagers, my kids still love making it," says Ruth.



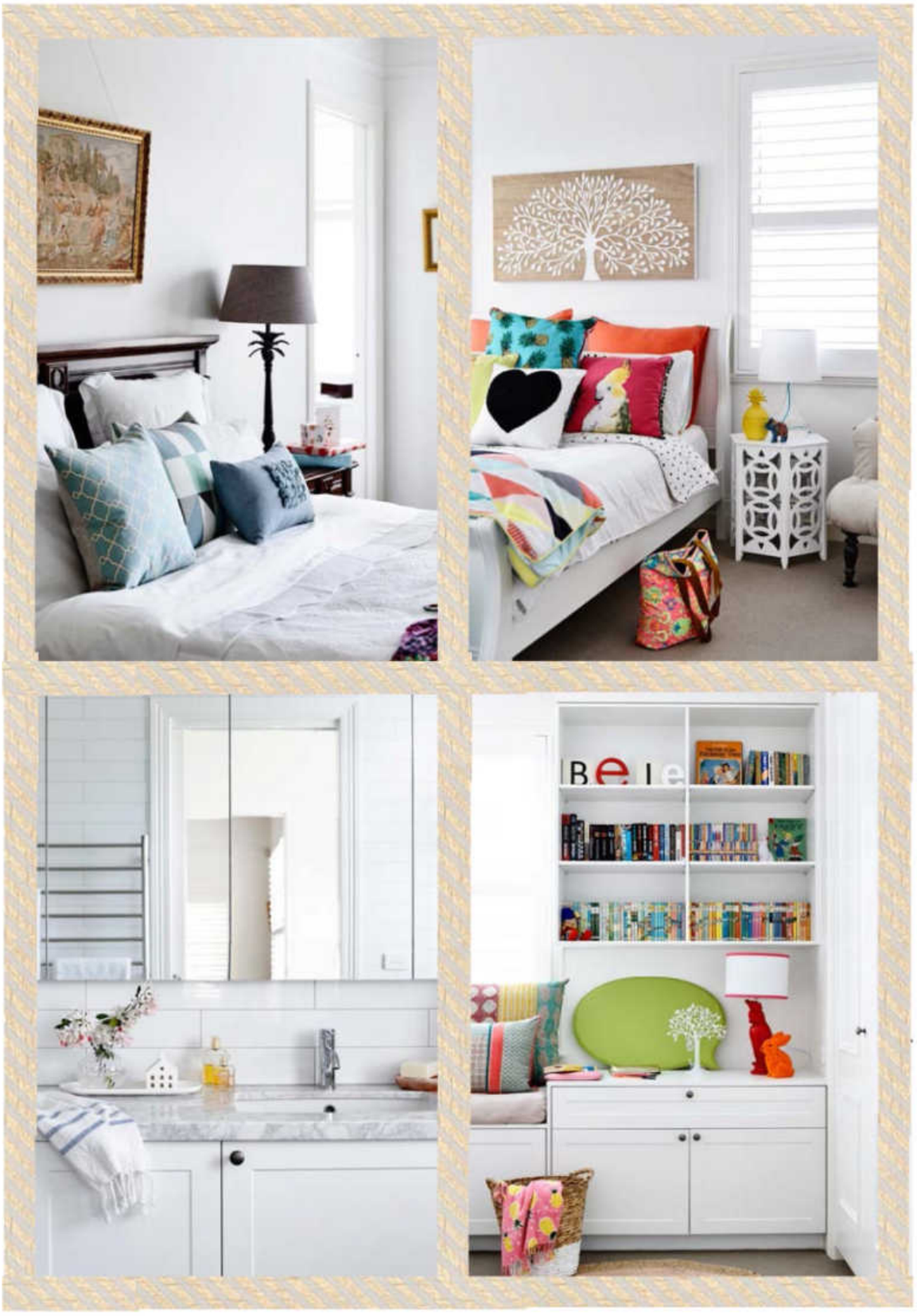
"WE LOVE *Christmas*. IT'S THE FAMILY'S FAVOURITE TIME OF THE YEAR AND WE GO A *bit crazy*" ~ RUTH





LIVING ROOM DETAILS {this page & opposite} Striped armchairs are paired with gold cushions from The Works, creating a colourful vignette. "We have quite a neutral palette throughout the house but I've tried to bring in colour with things like cushions," says Ruth. The open-plan living space is perfect for the couple's regular large-scale gatherings, with guests able to drift between the kitchen island, living area, dining table and deck. >

(BOTTOM LEFT) MINI TOPIARY CHRISTMAS TREES, BED BATH N' TABLE. 'LE SAC EN PAPIER', NORSU INTERIORS. (TOP RIGHT) COPPER TRAY, TURNER AND LANE



ENSUITE {above left} The kitchen finishes are repeated in the bathrooms for consistency. "We bought two big slabs of marble for the kitchen, all the bathrooms and the laundry," explains Ruth. Chic accessories include a Bemboka towel from The Bedspread Shop and a Morgan & Finch soap dish from Bed Bath N' Table. ISABELLE'S ROOM {above right} A built-in window seat flanked by shelves is enlivened by colourful pieces such as Canvas Home cushions, a green 'Uppvisa' noticeboard from Ikea and a pink jute rug from Temple & Webster. "I love to buy a mix of stuff," says Ruth. "You get your big items but then fill in the rest – the pieces you change regularly – with slightly more economical things." EMILY'S ROOM {top right} Eldest daughter Emily's room is packed with colour, but with a grown-up element in the form of the linen buttonback chair from Ruby Star Traders (just seen at right). "Em wanted something sophisticated but comfy so she could curl her feet up and read a book," says Ruth. "This chair was perfect." Cheerful patterns and hues were added in the quilt cover, tree print and side table, all from Adairs.

ARTWORKS, ARTISTS UNKNOWN



MASTER BEDROOM {this page & opposite, top left} This is one of the four original, more formal rooms at the front of Ruth and Eric's home. "You could almost call it the grown-up end of the house," says Ruth. There's quirky details, such as the antique mannequin (a gift from Eric to his wife), yet the space retains a degree of grandeur, from the original fireplace to the large 'Beverinton' lantern from Robert Kitto. "It's magnificent," says Ruth. "It casts a beautiful gentle light over the room and makes quite a statement." Elegant blue bedlinen from The Bedspread Shop adds to the room's inviting aura. >



ENTRANCE Phoebe the spoodle welcomes guests at the home's glossy front door, decorated with a wreath from My Christmas. Newly painted original Anaglypta wallpaper adorns the walls in the light-filled hallway.

INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Ruth, a stay-at-home mum; her husband Eric, a chartered accountant; their children, Henry, 18, Emily, 16, and Isabelle, 14; and spoodle Phoebe.

How does the family get into the Christmas spirit?

Ruth: "We get the kids together and start decorating the house – it's something we do as a family. We've collected so many decorations over the years and putting them up brings back many happy memories."

What do summers look like here?

"Lots of casual entertaining – barbecues with friends, kids everywhere, fun and laughter."

Where do you find your decorating inspiration?

"Sometimes there's a special piece to decorate around, such as the rug in the family room. Otherwise, it's hours flicking through magazines or trawling through Pinterest, Instagram and Houzz."

What is your favourite part of the home?

"The island bench in the kitchen. I love the marble top and everyone gathers around it when we entertain."



With its original marble fireplace, the formal living room is where the family gathers on cold nights – and where the three kids hang their Christmas stockings.



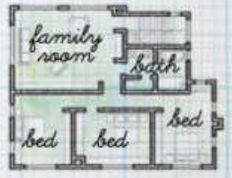
Youngest daughter Isabelle trims the living room tree, supervised by Ruth and Phoebe.

PLANS

Ground floor



First floor



CONTACTS

Designer

Jo McIntyre,
0417 341 853,
beautifulhome.net.au.

Builder

Devlin Mees Builders,
0417 534 662,
devlinmees.com.au.

(OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT) REINDEER. THE WORKS. ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM

MODERN HISTORY

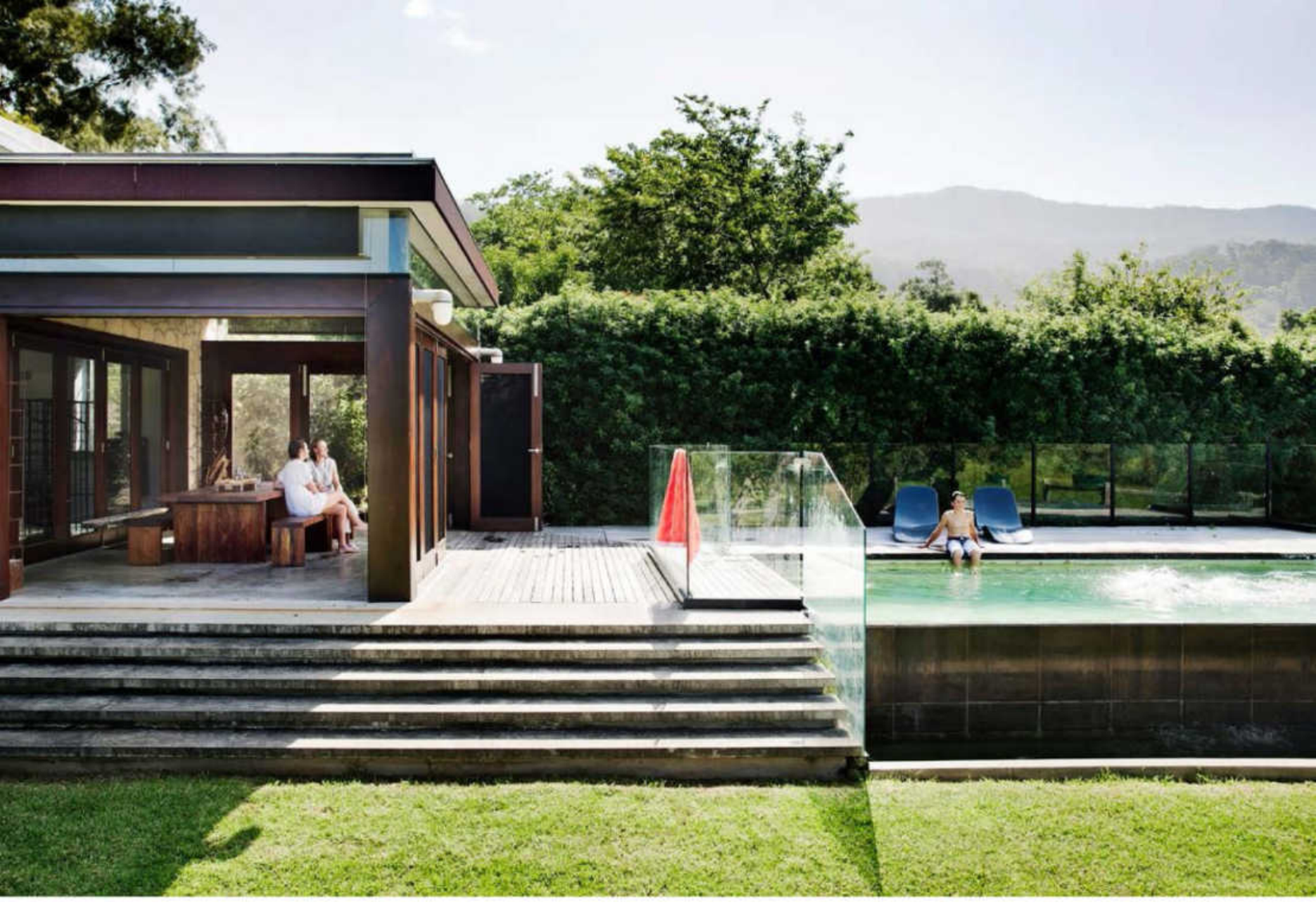
When the mercury rises, this Sydney family heads south to their country retreat, where the living is easy

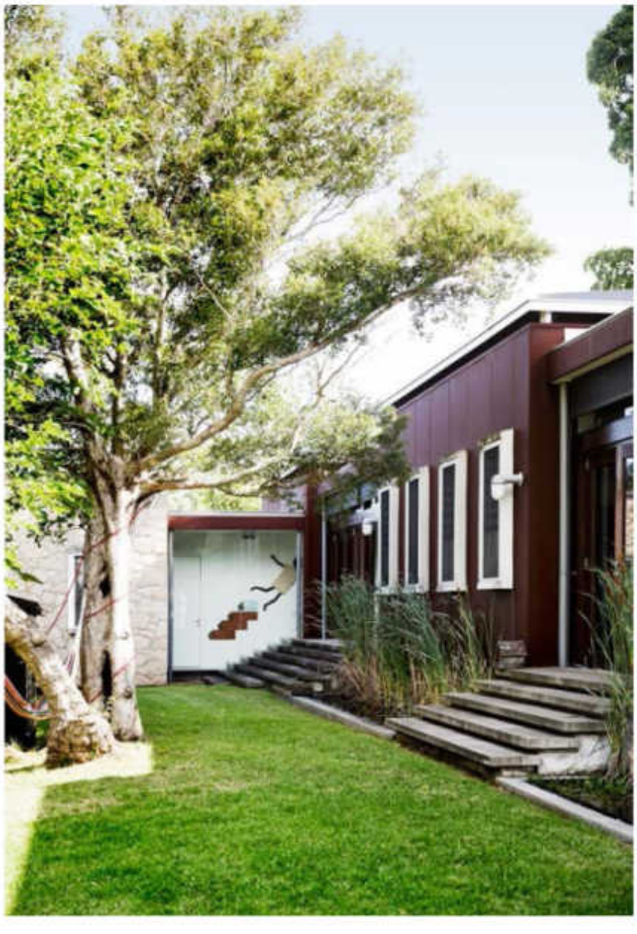
STORY **KATRINA O'BRIEN** STYLING **IMOGENE ABADY** PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES**



With its old-world sensibility, the modern addition to Mandie and Andrew's holiday home on the NSW south coast sits in harmony with the original cottage and the sprawling countryside. "The new section was designed to complement the old, but not replicate or overpower it," explains Mandie {above}, a mother of four. Youngest son Axel {opposite} swings underneath a spectacular ficus tree, while inside, earthy finishes and textures bind the new interiors to the home's heritage and provenance. >







Bobbing up and down a meandering road, hugging the lush hills lining the NSW southern coastline, a sense of serenity abounds. On this steamy summertime morning, crickets hum in full force and, as visitors slowly cross the one-lane bridge that leads to Mandie and Andrew's family getaway, there is a strong sense of stepping back in time. That is, until a striking house is revealed in the distance. As the forest of ancient gums clears, there sits what Mandie describes as a "Corten box" – a dramatic modern addition, all rusted steel, concrete and sandstone – that is respectfully wrapped around an original cottage, built in 1878 and now swathed in charcoal paint. "It was hilarious," Mandie says, recalling the construction of the substantial modern addition to their holiday home. "Once we had the new part up, some of the builders said, 'Right, when are we pulling this down?' They hadn't noticed we'd built the whole thing around the existing house!'"

Mandie, a heritage consultant with her own interior design and heritage company, Modern Heritage Matters, studies home histories for a living, so it's no surprise she was intent on preserving the cottage, built by Alfred Blow, the son of Irish immigrants. "I was absolutely in love with this house, the orchards and the old sheds," recalls Mandie of the first time she and Andrew spotted the property.

The couple had spent years living overseas, mainly in Japan and Hong Kong, and had always wanted a holiday house when they returned to Sydney. "It was always, you know, 'one day,'" she recalls. "But then we had a screaming baby [Oska, now 16] – so we'd get in the car and start driving to try and get him to sleep." Eventually, a real-estate agent who'd heard of their weekend travels through the NSW countryside told Mandie: "We've got the perfect house for you." >

EXTERIOR & POOL {above} A covered verandah that can be enclosed entirely by bifold fly screens overlooks a beautiful pool that sits cohesively in the countryside. "I wanted a pool that re-created the feeling of going to the creek, so I chose a pebblecrete that would give a natural, green look," says Mandie, pictured by the pool with Cella. {left} An enticing glimpse of the extension.

ARTWORK (BOTTOM LEFT) *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, DANIEL WALLACE



"I'D LOVE TO LIVE HERE *all the time*. IT'S SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE. YOU JUST GET THIS SENSE OF 'AHHH' AS SOON AS *you arrive*" ~ MANDIE

ENTRANCE Axel crosses the floor of polished concrete – the work of Tullera Constructions – that greets visitors at the entrance to the modern extension. A Camie Lyons sculpture and a marquee star lamp (try Fat Shack Vintage for similar) share the spotlight.

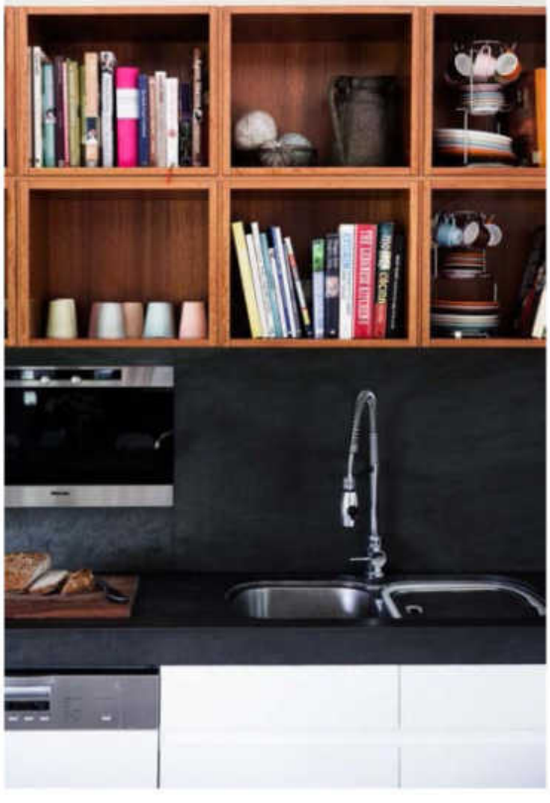


KITCHEN & DINING {right & below}
Oska walks into the kitchen, which is perfect for entertaining for a crowd. "I wanted a kitchen big enough to fit a lot of people at the same time," says Mandie. "Someone's peeling potatoes, someone's washing up... We've got it all going on. We often have 11 kids plus adults for dinner, so we need all hands on deck." Inspired by a Terence Conran design, the centrepiece of the kitchen is a honed Bedonia stone-topped island bench from Artedomus. Mark Tuckey bar stools add the prerequisite wooden texture, while open shelves allow Mandie to indulge in her flair for selective decorating. Eames 'DSW' dining chairs and a Mark Tuckey table are a modern match, while an eye-catching, industrial Artemide 'Nur 1618' pendant adds to the raw appeal.

LIVING {opposite} A champagne cork stool from Bowral's A Few Good Women sets the celebratory theme of the chilled-out living zone. Cella, Axel and AJ the cat put their feet – and paws – up on the lounge-lizard couches from Living Edge, while a Mark Tuckey coffee table is the ideal size for after-dinner board games. A custom Corten steel fireplace was designed by Mandie and Bomaderry Engineering, and creates the perfect, hip-height divider to zone the TV-free lounge and entertaining space. >



"I DEFINITELY BUY FOR THE *future*. IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH TRENDS, IT'S ALL ABOUT *what I love*" ~ MANDIE



< He was right. The couple bought the property – once a piggery – in 1999 and, over the next few years, Mandie, a keen decorator with a lovely eye for history, filled the home with delightful finds, including beautiful hand-crafted quilts and treasured pieces, all with a sweet sense of nostalgia. The family expanded with the arrival of Cella, now 14, Saxon, 13, and Axel, 11, and the home quickly became the "Christmas house" for extended family and friends. Then, in 2008, the couple made the decision to renovate, with the help of architect friend Alex Roth.

Taking cues from the raw textures, wood, sandstone and rust of the original cottage and centring the design around an existing palm tree that Mandie was determined to keep, the new addition has a contemporary aesthetic, with functionality and a relaxed, holiday vibe at its heart. It encompasses a master wing; girls' and boys' "dorms", each with six beds; three luxe bathrooms; two easy-entertaining living rooms – one with a bar area – and an expansive kitchen that's the social hub of the home. Beautifully chosen furniture, including pieces from Mark Tuckey and Melbourne's Temperature Design, provide a sense of warmth, and then there's the ever-present orangey tones of authenticity and hardiness that say this home is here for the long-haul. "I've always loved rust," says Mandie. "I think that's why I adore old buildings. Things need to be allowed to age."

Today, there is plenty of space for the family and drop-ins, and Mandie is at her happiest when the house is full. "We have 20 people from my side over Christmas, and then Andrew's side come afterwards," she says. Last year they had extras. "Andrew's cousin's girlfriend is Swedish, so her parents, who were here from Sweden, came too. Her father is a violinist and he played – it was just gorgeous!" As is this home that looks fondly to the past, but is definitely one for the future. "Cella talks about her wedding here," says Mandie. "This will always be our home. This is family."

WE LOVE

Feature flames

While the NSW south coast does feel the cold in winter, Mandie admits the stunning suspended fireplace wasn't all function over form. "I really love the shape: it's one of the best features of the room," she says. Focus 'Bathysca' fireplace, available from Oblica; oblica.com.au.



FLOORBOARDS

Get the look with Flooded (Rose) Gum solid strip flooring, from $95/sqm, Boral.



ENSUITE {left & below} A luxurious stone Apaiser statement bath, drenched in sunlight, says "me time" and is exactly the effect Mandie wanted. "I don't have a bath at home in Sydney, so this is my little space where I can get away from everyone," she says. "I often have the blinds up but obviously if there are other little kids and guests staying, the blinds go down." A pair of Apaiser vessel sinks create an elegant texture contrast to the wooden vanity designed by Mandie.

"I'M DRAWN TO THE SIMPLICITY OF THE BATH. THE SHAPE IS special BUT I ALSO LOVE THE earthy STONE" ~ MANDIE



MAIN BEDROOM {opposite} It's easy to see why Mandie's bedroom is a sanctuary: bathed in eastern light, with louvres opening up to the countryside, the space is all loveliness and elegance. A striking artwork – *Birth Of A Nation* by Fiona White – immediately draws the eye. "This is our special spot," says Mandie. "Andrew and I sit here and look out at the paddock. To me it's just the most gorgeous place." After much decorating discussion, two Conley & Co leather chairs ticked all the boxes for the couple. "We had a small argument about the chairs. Andrew just wanted comfortable chairs, which to him means faux leather recliners," she laughs. "Andrew's practical, I'm design-focused and completely impractical. These were the closest he was going to get!" >







GUEST BATHROOM {above left} A tubular, custom-designed stone Apaiser vanity is a stunning inclusion in the guest bathroom, where Inax Japan 'Yohen Border' mosaic tiles from Artedomus line the wall in perfect symmetry with the ultra-narrow mirror.

GIRLS' ROOM {opposite & above right} The girls' bedroom features custom-made beds by Leicht Kitchens, with pretty colour coming from the Lee Mathews quilts, Adairs cushions and the beautifully textured Loom rug. "I designed the whole bedroom around the quilts," says Mandie. A built-in desk and wardrobes, also by Leicht Kitchens, continue the streamlined look.

KIDS' BATHROOM {left} An antique dentist's cabinet makes a charming storage unit for towels, soaps and good-looking toiletries. >

"OUTDOOR MOVIES AND *picking fruit* – HERE THE KIDS DO WHAT THEY CAN'T IN THE CITY" ~ MANDIE

PAINT
Wash & Wear Barrier Technology in Antique White USA, $71.90/4L, Dulux.





HIDEAWAY SPOT Scattered around the property are guest-ready nooks, perfect for a little peace and quiet. Here, a grape vine curls around the eaves, framing a hanging chair from Mao And More (try Hanging Out for similar) that overlooks the verdant grounds.

INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Mandie, a heritage consultant for Modern Heritage Matters (modernheritage.com.au); her husband Andrew, a company director; their children Oska, 16, Cella, 14, Saxon, 13, and Axel, 11; and AJ the cat.

Where did your passion for history come from?

Mandie: "I think it was from my grandmother. She collected antiques and worked as a volunteer at Old Government House in Parramatta."

Are you a minimalist?

"No, not at all! Our home in Sydney is modern with Asian pieces – a bit shabby chic. But here, I think it's important that it isn't overcrowded. It's a holiday house and people need to come and not feel overwhelmed."

Advice for renovating a heritage home?

"Respect the building's layers. Repair rather than replace in order to keep as much historic fabric as possible, and make sure any significant alteration is reversible. New additions shouldn't imitate the precise details of a historic building and a visual distinction between the old and the new works well, too."

You're a serious collector of things...

"I am – I'm quite obsessive about it. When we travel, I bring the most bizarre pieces back through Customs!"

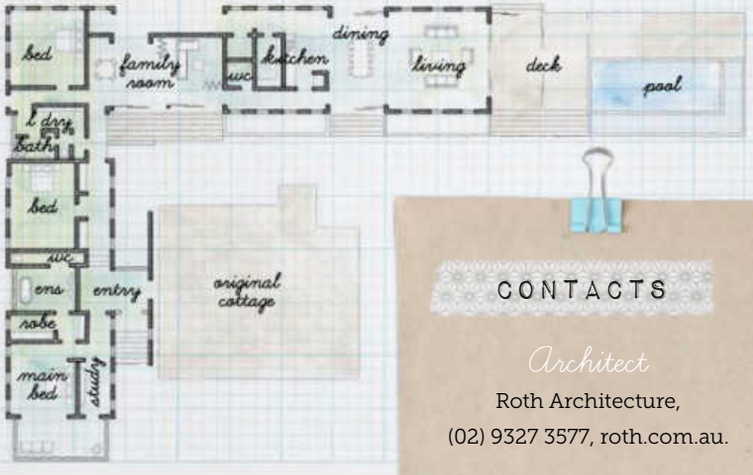


The modern addition and the charming old cottage are a match made in design heaven.



"The trees are hugely important to me," says Mandie. "They're here to stay."

PLANS



CONTACTS

Architect

Roth Architecture,
(02) 9327 3577, roth.com.au.

Builder

Gallagher Builders Pty Ltd,
(02) 4447 0651.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION
ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM

sunny disposition

Renovation addicts Deena and Tim gave this 1960s Victorian seaside home new warmth and character

STORY **JACKIE BRYGEL** STYLING **JACQUI MOORE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB**





Former Melburnians Deena and Tim and their two children love the coastal lifestyle offered by their Mornington Peninsula home. The area's laid-back vibe is echoed throughout the house, especially in the kitchen, which stars a textural mix of Tasmanian oak panelling and robust concrete flooring. 'Paxton' bar stools from Early Settler enhance the industrial-meets-coastal ambience, along with a 'Saint Malo' oak dining table and 'Ibiza' chairs, all from Dare Gallery. The pool area {opposite} is particularly popular with Josh, 10, and Charlie, eight, with battles over who gets dibs on the Sunnylife giant inflatable flamingo. An Ikea 'PS Vago' outdoor chair sits in the cabana, which is clad in silvertop ash, with fascia board in Woodland Grey to match the Colorbond roof. Vintage oars add a nautical flavour. >



KITCHEN Ever budget conscious, Deena and Tim utilised an offcut of grey granite to top the kitchen's island bench, a fine stage for a stylish pull-out mixer tap – for similar, try 'Spin' by Zucchetti. On the benchtop, Wooden HK Living plates from House Of Orange echo the timber accents. Polytec 'Ashgrain' melamine cabinetry in Classic White was installed by Get A Handle On It, while Tim fitted the Tasmanian oak cladding himself. He was also partly responsible for one of the home's standout features: the exquisite polished concrete floor. "While the concrete was being poured, Tim threw in a scattering of stones by hand," explains Deena. "When it was eventually polished, the white stones were really exposed." Deena sourced timber pendants from Early Settler (now discontinued, but Mercator's 'Copenhagen' has a similar look) to illuminate the island.



"We wanted the house to have a real connection to the outdoors" ~ Deena

Passionate decorator Deena can't help but smile every time she walks up the timber steps to the front door of her family's sun-kissed coastal home. It's not only because the airy abode perfectly reflects her current love of all things light, bright and naturally beautiful. Or that the house occupies a postcard-worthy setting in a sleepy village on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, with the sand and sea little more than a stone's throw away. It's also because this is the ninth home that Deena and her husband Tim have reinvented or built in just nine years. And there's every chance they're not done yet – much to the dismay of Deena's mother. "She tells people that she no longer writes our address or phone number in pen in her address book, which is probably a very good idea!" says Deena.

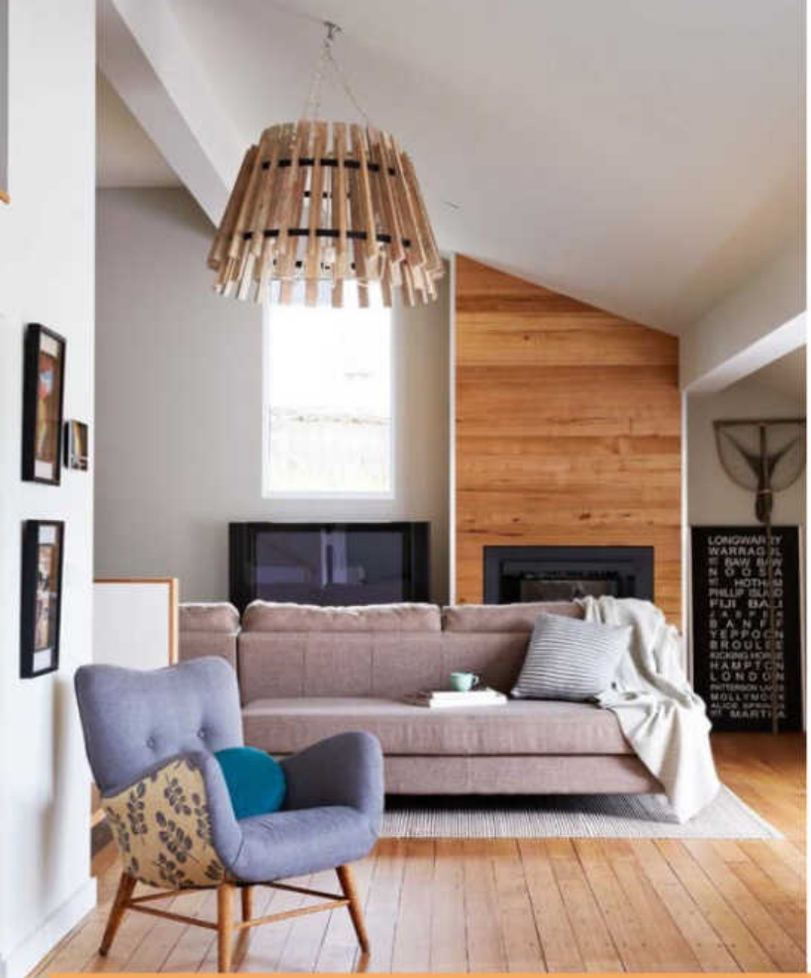
Being such seasoned renovators means that Deena – whose heavenly decorating style landed her kitchen and ensuite bathroom coveted finalist places in *Home Beautiful*'s 50 Beautiful Rooms competition last year – has mastered the art of decluttering. "We just have what we need, and I clean out as we go – but the packing up and shifting is still exhausting and, unfortunately, we've run out of favours from friends," she concedes.

After opting for a sea change from the hustle and bustle of Melbourne almost a decade ago, Deena, Tim and their children – son Josh, now 10, and daughter Charlie, eight – quickly settled into the laid-back coastal lifestyle. "Our home before this one was a beautiful house with full ocean views," reveals Deena. "We thought we'd put it on the market and see what happened. It was listed online for sale late at night and we sold it within 24 hours."

When Deena first laid eyes on this home, she was instantly smitten by its ripe-for-a-makeover potential. "It had been sitting on the market for over a year: a brown, 1960s project home with yellow walls, small bedrooms and an old kitchen and living area," she says. "But as >



FAMILY AREA {above & top} Drenched in natural light thanks to Vantage 'D'Stacker' doors and grounded by the raw beauty of the flooring, the family room has an organic style. "With this house, I wanted it all to be very natural in its colours and textures," says Deena. Warmth comes courtesy of a cowhide rug from Factory One, a Sage And Clare throw on the sofa and the Tasmanian oak-encased fireplace. Thrifty Deena found the twin armchairs by the side of the road, then painted and reupholstered them.



< soon as I walked in, I fell in love with the four-metre ceilings and fantastic orientation – and the fact that it's so close to the beach. I knew we could create something special from its great bones."

The hands-on couple has done just that, transforming the old house into a split-level residence with a base palette of white, earthy timber, stone and concrete. It's now a luminous entertainers' delight that doubles as a family-friendly haven. With fully retractable, floor-to-ceiling glass doors to the outdoor deck, leading to an inviting new pool and a tennis court, the home has a seamless connection to its resort-style environment. Inside and out, it showcases Tim's flair for structural design and Deena's keen eye for detail and, happily, the result is exactly as the pair visualised it. "Even the power points are in the right spot," beams Deena. "It's perfect."

Yet for this forever-on-the-move clan, the thrill that comes with new adventure continues to beckon. In fact, Deena, Tim and the children have packed up again – albeit only the bare necessities this time – and taken a leave pass from the everyday to fulfil another long-held dream: travelling across the country on the road trip of a lifetime. "We've decided to make our way clockwise around Australia in a caravan that's smaller than our ensuite," says Deena. "At the end, we'll be pleased to get back to our beautiful house – but, really, it's being where your family is that makes you happy."

"You could introduce any colour into the house and it would work" ~ Deena





LIVING AREA {top left & left} The TV and games zone once housed a dark and dated kitchen. The cement-rendered wall adds textural interest, its brutish impact softened by the furnishings. A chaise sofa from Focus On Furniture, dressed with a Bemboka throw from Bushel & A Peck, stands on a rug from Target, while the armchair is another roadside discovery: Deena had it reupholstered in fabric from Spotlight. A Moroccan-style rug from Dollar Curtains & Blinds and an over-dyed rug from HK Living add extra comfort. Deena also transformed the pool table, a Gumtree find, with paint and new black felt. Overhead, 'Rima 6' pendants from Early Settler provide statement lighting, while copper-toned pieces such as the tall Meizai vase and Louise Roe candle holder from Norsu Interiors bring a pleasing touch of bling.



PAVERS
Limestone
600mm x 600mm
pavers, about $45/sqm,
Stone & Tile Centre.

PATIO {this page & opposite, bottom right} Anchored by stylish limestone tiles, the covered alfresco area is a favourite spot for the clan to gather in the warmer months, and the monochrome dining setting easily accommodates a small crowd. Re-create the look with Zanui's 'Roden' table and 'Gracie' chairs from Globe West. Oversized cutlery wall art from Bunnings adds a quirky touch, while the eclectic tableware includes a vintage French chopping board from Andrew Wilson Antiques, round salt and oil dishes by Kaz Ceramics and etched blue glasses from HK Living. "It's definitely an entertainers' house," says Deena. But there's just one problem with such a tranquil and summery backyard space: "We sometimes have to remind ourselves to go to the beach!" >



WE LOVE

Elegant grey

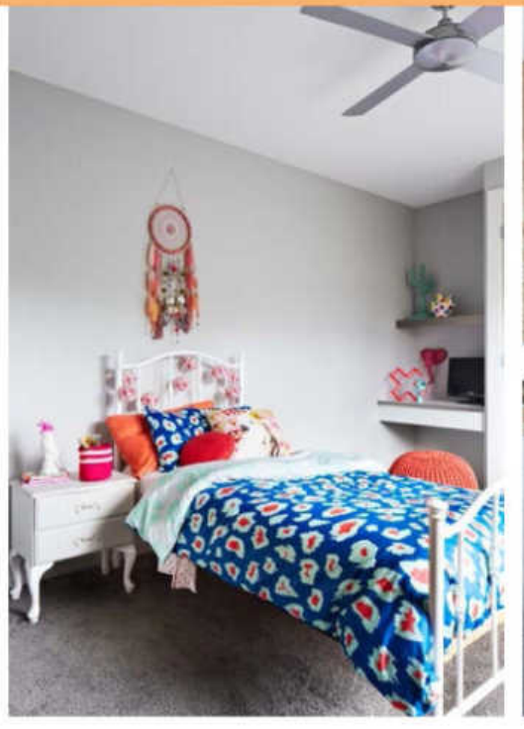
From the stormy wall colour to the misty-hued Bedouin Societe bed linen from Fenton & Fenton and marble-look Ferm Living cushion from Norsu Interiors, gorgeous grey shades combine to create a restful vibe in the master bedroom. "I just love grey," says Deena. "It's a very calming colour."

PAINT
SpaceCote Low Sheen in Eighth Friar Grey, $99.89/4L, Resene.





"The house has a lived-in aesthetic – it doesn't feel brand-new" ~ Deena





MAIN BEDROOM {opposite} This retreat has a lovely comforting feel, thanks to the linen accents on a Focus On Furniture's 'Zara' bed, aged-look bedsides from Early Settler and lamps and a throw from Target. A sparkling glass pendant (try Zanui's 'Coco' for similar) and a Maisey scented candle add a touch of glamour. But it's the eco-friendly Prestige 'Sublime' carpet in Fog (sourced at Carpet World) that is the true talking point – it's made of recycled soft-drink bottles. "People are just blown away when we tell them," says Deena. ENSUITE {top left & above right} A sense of luxury continues in the couple's ensuite, with its egg-like Aspire 'Matisse Escape' tub from Burdens Bathrooms, concrete-look 'Base Light Grey' ceramic tiles from the Stone & Tile Centre, and Tasmanian oak-lined feature wall complemented by a stylish timber twin vanity – actually a cleverly repurposed entertainment unit fitted with SI 'Monarco' sinks, also from Burdens. The Sussex 'Scala' from Reece is a similarly elegant floor-mounted bath spout. GUEST BEDROOM {top right} An Ikea day bed (for similar, try 'Svelik') has been dressed with bedlinen and cushions from Target, while an Icelandic sheepskin rug from Etsy lends extra softness to the floor. The chair is yet another roadside rescue. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM {above left} This pretty bedroom stars a vintage-look metal bed found on eBay, dressed in a colourful 'Mint Paw' quilt cover and pillowcase by Goosebumps. Extra playfulness comes from a Mercer & Reid cockatoo cushion from Adairs, a round Mark Tuckey cushion and a Kip & Co velvet pillowcase. Pieces on the shelves include a Twiggargerie cross and Fenton & Fenton cactus. >



DECKING
Silvertop ash
90mm decking timber,
$6.20/m, Mitre 10.

DECK AREA The greying silvertop ash, an Australian eucalypt, makes a durable decking material. Cutek CD50 oil provides the timber with protection but allows for a beautiful weathered hue in this much-used space. "We're always outside, pottering in the garden or entertaining," says Deena.

INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Deena, a training facilitator for a global travel agency; Tim, a fireman; their children Josh, 10, and Charlie, eight; and Goldie the goldfish.

What are the most important qualities a home should have?

Deena: "Texture, character and ambience... they are things we work hard to achieve."

Did you live here during the reno?

"Yes, we project-managed it ourselves and lived here the whole time, which was exhausting. You have to be prepared for the fact that it's going to be messy! Pack away whatever you don't need and just live with the absolute basics."

Any renovation disasters?

"I nearly had a breakdown over the deck. Tim inadvertently grabbed the wrong product from the paint shop. I worked madly oiling a large section of the deck all day but the next morning, the only thing I could see was orange and more orange."

What will your next home be like?

"Completely different. It will be a classic, white weatherboard, Hamptons-style home with oak floors. I already know exactly what it will look like."

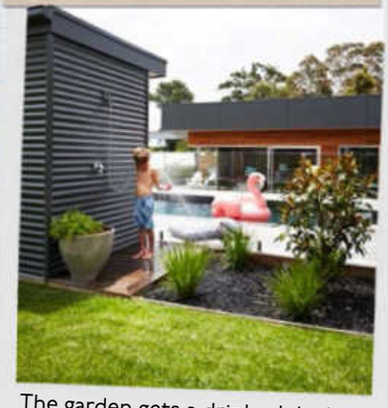


In the family bathroom, a buffet Deena spotted online becomes another one-of-a-kind vanity. A 'Concertina' bowl from Sage And Clare dresses the space.

CONTACTS

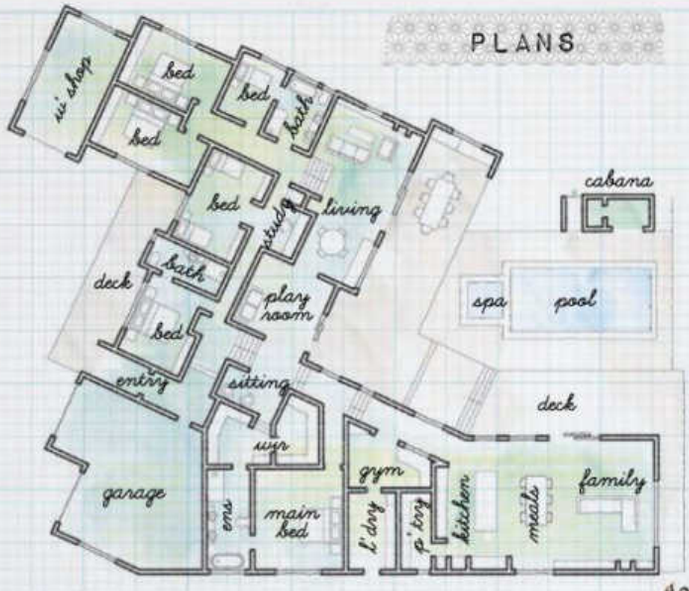
Drafting
Vistalab, 0413 377 277, vistalab.com.au.

Cabinetry
Get A Handle On It, (03) 5979 2050.



The garden gets a drink while Josh rinses off at the outdoor shower.

PLANS



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monochrome masterpiece

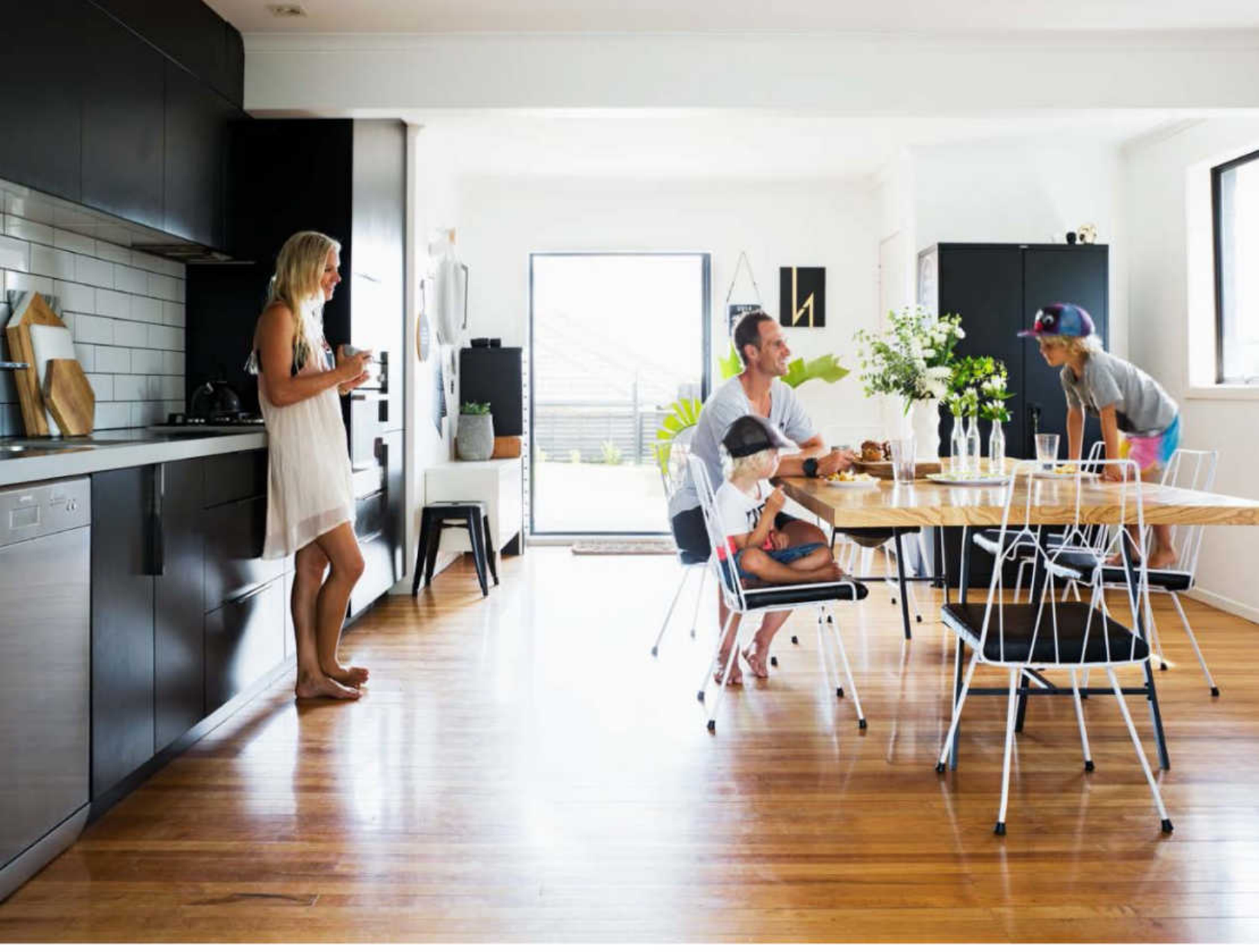
A former NZ international rugby player and his family have embraced the simple life in their renovated home

STORY & STYLING **LEEANN YARE** PHOTOGRAPHY **LARNIE NICOLSON**





THIS PAGE Happily back home after living abroad for Hayden's career, life for the former international rugby Sevens player and his wife Kirsten is all about the simple joy of time spent with their three children (from left, Stella, Cruz, and Isaac) at home in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty. "If there was one thing that we really fell for here, it was the backyard," remembers Kirsten. "It provides us with a great feeling of space, especially for the boys, who need to have a decent run around at least twice a day to blow off steam!" The generous garden also allowed room for an oversized deck {opposite} – made of hardy kwilla – which is perfect for entertaining. Replica Panton chairs (try Matt Blatt) give the deck a designer edge, while basic bench seats provide additional room when lots of kids need to squeeze in. Leafy patterned cushions from Ses & Jen echo the lush green surrounds. >



Hayden and Kirsten have never lived ordinary lives. When they were engaged, the New Zealanders lived in separate parts of the country: Kirsten in the centre of the North Island, where she had a sports massage business, and Hayden 120 kilometres east in the Bay of Plenty, where he played for the New Zealand Sevens rugby union team (now known as the All Black Sevens). Before moving to Europe in 2006, when Hayden was offered a contract to play in Italy, they purchased an investment property in a beachside suburb in the picturesque Bay of Plenty region, with the dream of renovating it for themselves and their future family on their return. "Our goal was always to create a home full of friends and family," says Kirsten.

Four years, one wedding and two children later, the couple and their sons, Isaac, now seven, and Cruz, six, packed up their Italian lives and returned to New Zealand to tackle their home renovation. Hayden also made a dramatic career change, retraining as a secondary school maths and PE teacher and becoming the associate pastor of a local church. Adding another string to his bow, he also project-managed their reno. Friends and family volunteered alongside tradies to help pull the project together. "We were so blessed – we had so many people help us out," says Kirsten. "We had friends who built decks, wallpapered, helped install joinery, painted, put up lights and plumbed kitchens, you name it. We had an insane amount of help."

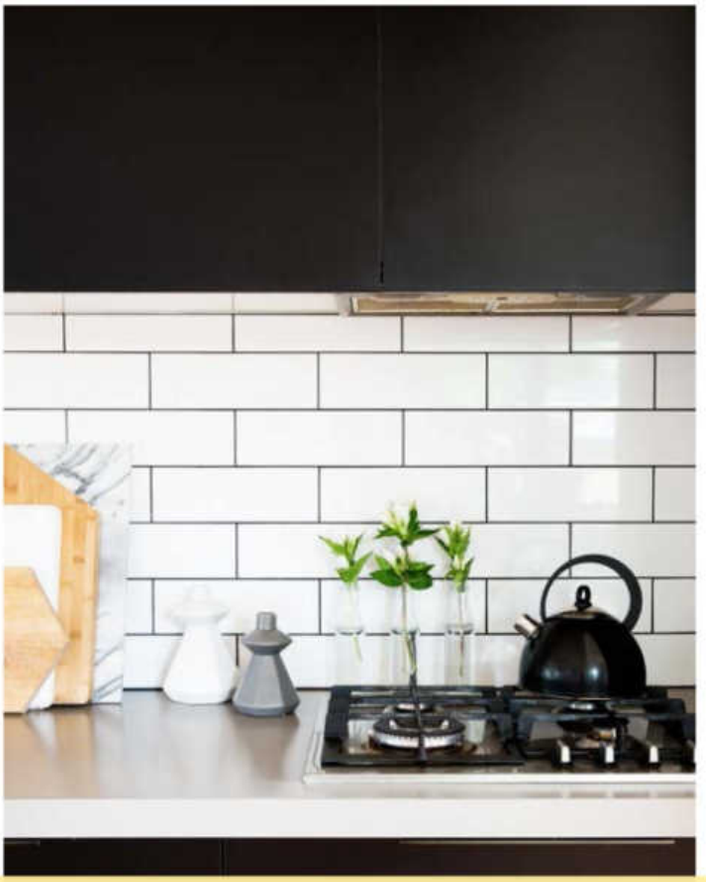
To keep the budget down, the couple stuck mainly to the home's original footprint and removed internal walls that divided the poky kitchen, dining room and study. "We covered over two doorways to install a new kitchen running entirely down one wall – a style common in Italian homes – which gave us a large, open-plan kitchen and dining space with a runway for the kids," says Kirsten. Indoor-outdoor living also was a priority for the young family, which now includes daughter Stella, two. Aluminium sliding doors were added to give a seamless flow from the newly open-plan kitchen and family living area to the deck, which doubles as an outdoor room in summer.

The decor was next on the list. "The home had 50 years' worth of decorating layered on every wall and a threadbare vintage floral carpet," recalls Kirsten, who cut her design teeth on this reno before going on to work as an interior stylist. The carpet and lino were ripped up to reveal original tawa floorboards, the brown interior was updated to a more modern scheme of black, white and grey, and clean lines, geometric shapes and typeface artworks were chosen for the walls. Yet, despite its stylish, cohesive finish, the bold monochrome palette wasn't planned. "I just chose things that I liked the look of, not really realising the pattern of colour that was evolving," explains Kirsten. "Now that it's all together, it seems to really work."

Interestingly, the home has one unorthodox exclusion: there's no television. Instead, an oversized, ultra-comfortable couch in the living room is the family's focal point. "That sofa is all about book-reading with Isaac and Cruz, and feeding Stella," says Kirsten. "It's the boys' Lego platform and Stella's walking-around area. Family wrestles are had on that couch and lots of good snuggles. Our babies are our treasures. All three of them bring both of us so much joy."

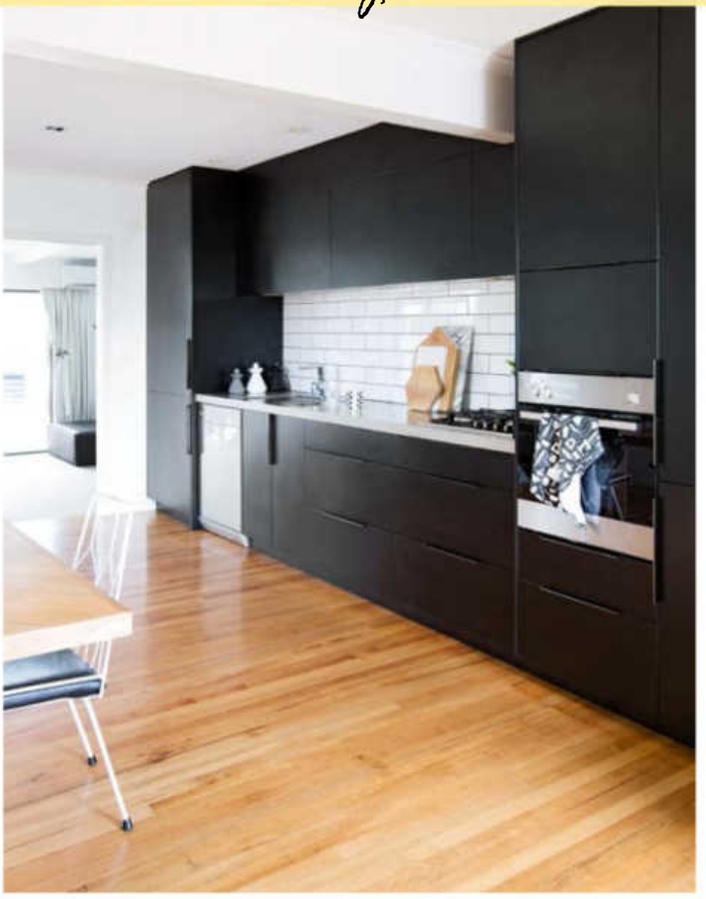
KITCHEN {opposite, right & below right}
Originally three small rooms, the combined kitchen and dining room is now a stylish entertaining zone. White subway tiles are highlighted with charcoal grout to blend with the dark kitchen cabinetry, while also fulfilling Kirsten's love of geometric shapes and clean lines. In the adjoining dining area, retro-style dining chairs spotted on the internet were given a modern makeover – their frames were powder-coated in white to frame the oversized family dining table, designed by Kirsten and made by Blackmore Design.

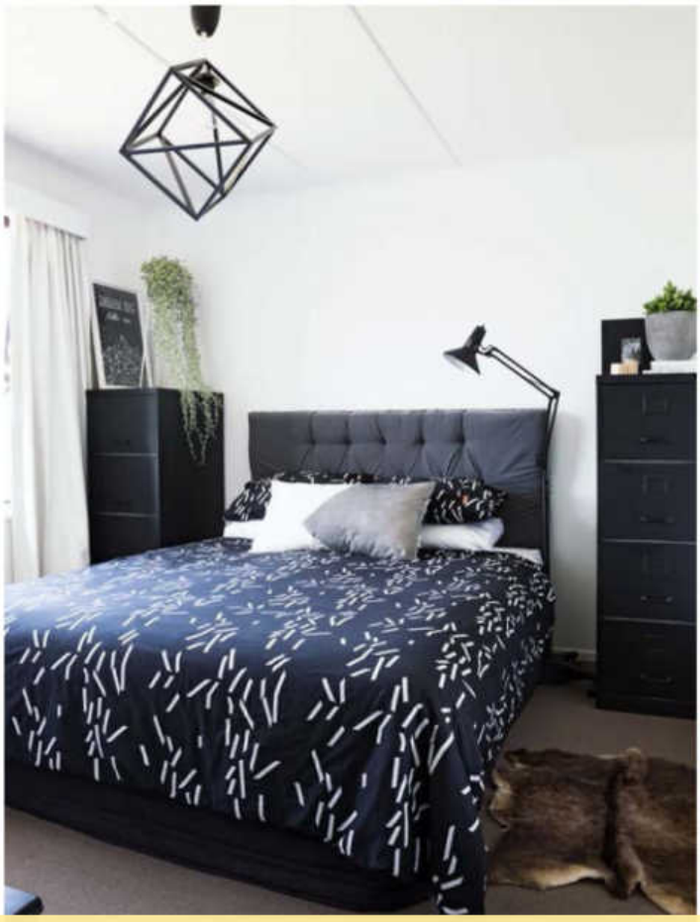
LIVING ROOM {below} The cosy Bo Concept 'Carmo' sofa in the living room is the hub of the home. "It's one thing we will keep forever," says Kirsten. "I have loved it since I sat on it in their showroom three years ago, but it didn't fit into our budget then. Luckily the wait was worth it, as we nabbed it in a sale!" It's home to a Pia Wallen wool cross blanket (available from Norsu Interiors) and a collection of cushions found on Etsy. On the wall is a geometric artwork, also found at Bo Concept. >



"THE PEOPLE IN OUR AREA ARE *incredible* AND THERE'S AN AMAZING SENSE OF *community*" ~ KIRSTEN







"MY DECORATING *style* IS *simple*, CLEAN, FUN AND PEACEFUL" ~ KIRSTEN



MAIN BEDROOM {left} Kirsten and Hayden opted for one of the smaller bedrooms for themselves, which provided an intimate space that they then decorated with an industrial edge. Linear patterns are repeated in Kip & Co bedlinen and the hanging Hanlon & Howe light, but have been softened with a mix of textures including the hide rug, cascading greenery and the buttoned headboard, made by Kirsten. "The filing cabinets were sourced on the internet and we had them revamped – they provide the extra storage we need in this room," she explains. "And the reading light was a thoughtful gift from a good friend."

STELLA'S BEDROOM {below} This room is one that two-year-old Stella can grow into. The bold Resene wallpaper is sweetened with touches of soft baby pink and the rounded edges of a Kartell 'Componibili' side table. A pretty mobile from Douglas And Bec hangs above, a foil for the simple artwork by Pikselmatic on Etsy.



WALLPAPER
Get the look with 'Black & White TS28131' wallpaper, $129.90/ 10m roll, Resene.



PAINT
Spacecote low sheen in Black White, $49.90/litre, Resene.

BOYS' BEDROOM {this page & opposite, bottom left} Originally designed as the master bedroom, the boys' – Cruz, seated, and Isaac – shared bedroom is now the ultimate kids' hangout. "This was my favourite room to decorate!" says Kirsten. "I spotted the bear rug on Etsy – it adds a touch of whimsy and fun." (Find it at Roxy Marj; roxymarj.com.) Charcoal wallpaper from Resene makes the sleep zone feel restful and contrasts with the crisp white in the adjacent playroom. The Urban Outfitters bedlinen was bought online. A series of graphic prints add humour to the room: the triangles print was found at Freedom, the 'Don't Grow Up' work is by Vapor Qualquer and the 'One Day You Will Fly' print was made by a friend. >

WE LOVE

Simple displays

An empty wall doesn't need expensive art, as Kirsten proves here. A collection of photos, inspirational mementoes and typographical prints - all in a linking palette of black and white - are stuck to the wall with washi tape for a simple yet very effective look. For coloured and patterned washi tape, try Little Paper Lane; littlepaperlane.com.au.



STUDY A geometric-shaped chair from Urban Lounge Interiors takes centre stage in Kirsten's study and is paired with a desk she designed and had made locally. The vintage filing cabinet has been powder-coated to create a touch of drama against the crisp walls.

INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Kirsten, a part-time sports massage therapist and interior stylist; her husband Hayden, a teacher and associate pastor; and their children Isaac, seven, Cruz, six, and Stella, two.

What inspires you?

Kirsten: "Architecture, Scandinavian design and monochromatic and clean lines. I always seem to go for black, white, grey, concrete, marble and gold."

What's your best renovating tip?

"Don't let it rule your life. Spending time with your husband or wife and family far outweighs the importance of doing up your house."

What's the most treasured feature of your home?

"The people I share it with. I also love that it's such an open home and is constantly full of people, planned or unplanned. We love that our family and friends feel that they can drop in at any time."

How do you source your interior details?

"I love looking for things beyond the usual. I used magazines, Pinterest, Etsy and design blogs for inspiration, and then shopped. I really rate online shopping as I don't have any time during the day... I do night-time hunting on the web!"



A geometric artwork by Anahera Moon is displayed above an Eames-style rocker from Flux Boutique.



A living centrepiece on the outdoor table creates a lushly styled look.

PLANS



CONTACTS

Builder

Neville Crawford,
Freedom Builders,
+64 21 276 2169

Architect

Red Architecture
+64 7 839 6852

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ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM

A SENSE OF SPACE

A subtle facelift brought out the best in this airy abode, creating an elegant residence that worships the light

STORY **KERRYN FISCHER** PHOTOGRAPHY **JAMES PUTTICK**





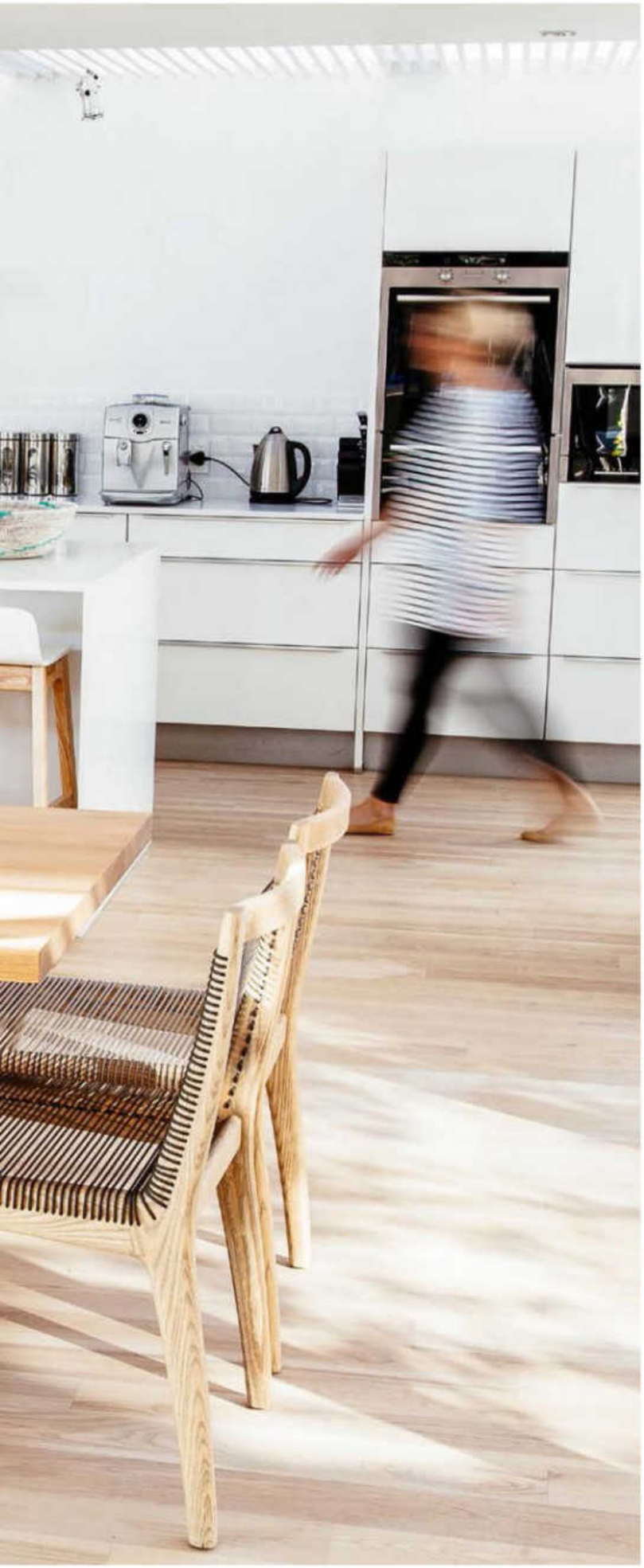
With sunlight streaming into each room and tantalising glimpses of greenery at every turn, Amelia and Grant's Cape Town home is cleverly designed to embrace the outdoors. An oxidised metal front door on a pivot hinge **{above left}** provides a dramatic welcome to the home, rivalled only by the scenery framed in the picture window beyond. South Africa's magnificent landscape is celebrated, not only in the views, but also through artworks, such as the Angie Wilson painting in the entrance hall **{above right}** and a photographic print of Table Mountain in the living room **{opposite}**, which is displayed on a backdrop of chocolate-hued grasscloth wallpaper. But the light is the real show stopper in this room, streaming in through clerestory windows and bi-fold doors that open wide to connect with the deck. >

STORY COURTESY OF FRANK FEATURES
HOMEOWNERS' NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED





TILES
Get the look with bevelled-edge 150mm x 75mm subway tiles, $74.95/sqm, Amber Tiles.



With its lofty, double-volume spaces and urban farmhouse feel, this contemporary home on the slopes of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa, is the epitome of relaxed family living, and the perfect place for homeowners Amelia and Grant to raise their two daughters. The couple bought the house two years ago, seduced by the generous size of the block and the easy access to the mountain footpaths where they frequently walk, cycle and run. "The luxury of space we have here and the fact that we are enveloped in greenery is truly unique," says Amelia. "Especially when you consider that the city centre is just a 10-minute drive down the hill."

While the position was brilliant for this active family of four, the couple fell equally in love with the home's clean modern lines, the work of local architect Paolo Viotti. With its generous sense of space and light-filled interiors, the house is characterised by a seamless transition between indoors and out, thanks to the clever use of strip and clerestory windows, as well as moveable shutters that control light and circulation throughout the day. But with the chaos and clutter of family living, the couple soon realised that a small-scale renovation was needed, so they turned to interior designer Kate Moffatt, who had helped them previously with their beach house.

"IT'S A LIGHT, AIRY, HAPPY SPACE THAT WE LOVE TO RETURN TO AT THE END OF THE DAY" ~ AMELIA, HOMEOWNER

"The home had such good design bones that we didn't really do much at all, except steal some space from the bathrooms to add to the bedrooms," says Kate, who enlisted the help of architect Rick Brown. "The major renovation was lifting the roof above the garage and building a self-contained studio and home office there."

In terms of the interiors, Kate kept it simple, preferring to lighten things up rather than make drastic changes. "The original house had a lot of wood panelling on the interior walls, which made it quite dark," explains the interior designer. "In the living spaces and playroom, I used the same colour palette throughout just to keep it continuous, while in the children's bedrooms, each of the girls chose their favourite colour for an accent wall."

The generous living areas also required a furniture rethink. "We kept a few pieces that we've had for many years, but we needed to scale up our furnishings to fit in with the volume of the house, which necessitated some new, custom-made items," says Amelia. To enliven the serenely neutral interiors, Kate added splashes of colour and graphic pattern. The result is a covetable and down-to-earth family space where nothing is too precious, and where the focus is on the natural beauty of its spectacular setting.

KITCHEN The layout of the sleek galley kitchen was left largely unchanged in the renovation, except for the addition of white subway tiles and additional storage to keep the space uncluttered. "The only thing we added was a much-needed scullery," explains interior designer Kate Moffatt, who also chose to repaint the walls in white to celebrate the light that streams in through a timber-slatted glass ceiling. Running parallel to the Caesarstone-topped island bench is a solid timber table by local craftsman James Mudge, surrounded by stunning wood and riempie (woven leather) chairs by John Vogel. The designer exports his pieces; for details, visit vogeldesign.co.za. >



WE LOVE

Mini rooms

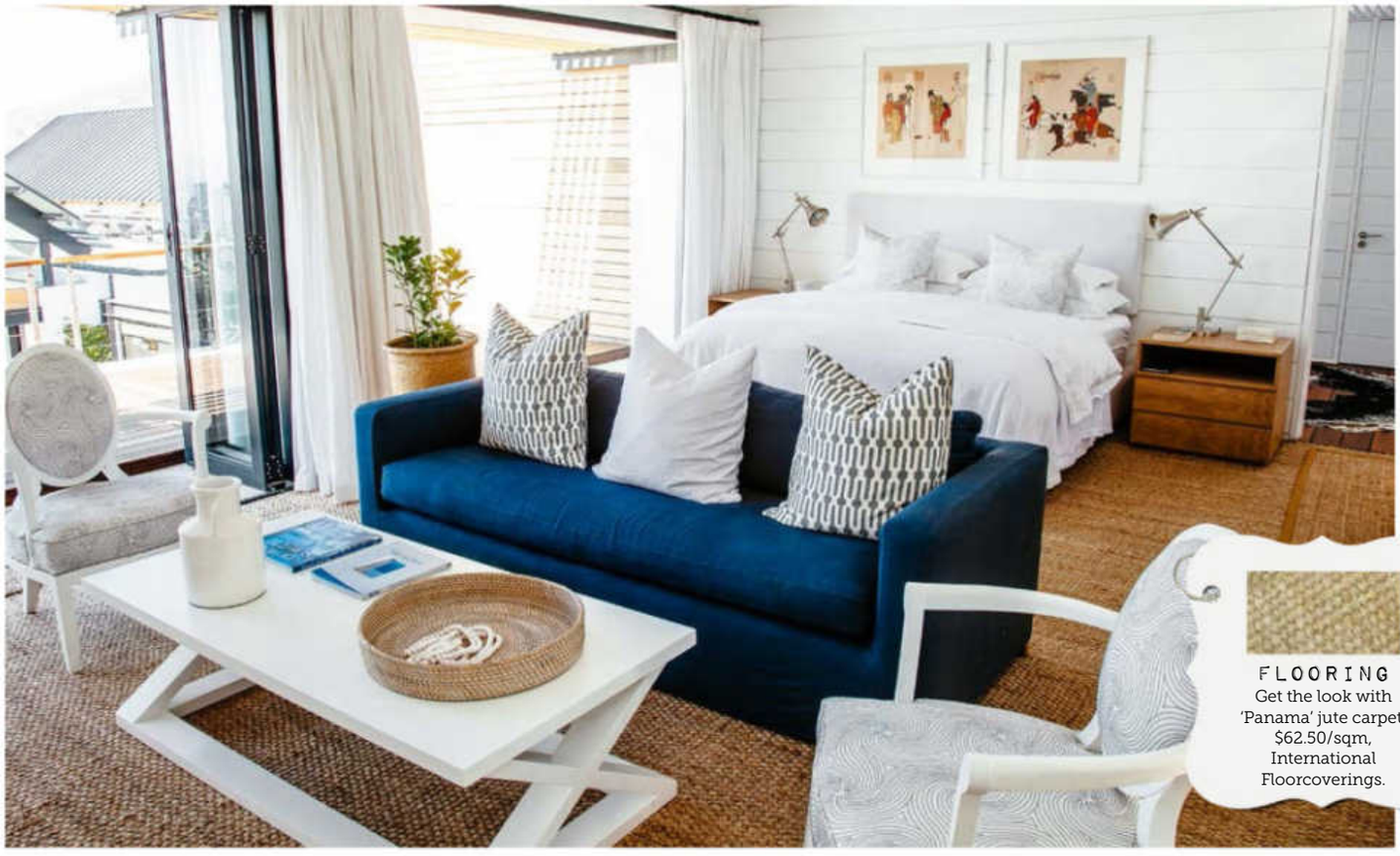
Interior designer Kate conquered the challenge of the home's generous proportions by creating "moments" within the larger living areas. Here, timber side tables are grouped within a semi-circle of sofas to create a cosy conversation zone, while a second sofa backing onto the centre seat (opposite, top) faces away from the room to create the illusion of solitude.



"A GOOD SPREAD OF NEUTRALS AND TEXTURES PROVIDES THE PERFECT COUNTERPOINT TO COLOUR AND PATTERN" ~ KATE, DESIGNER

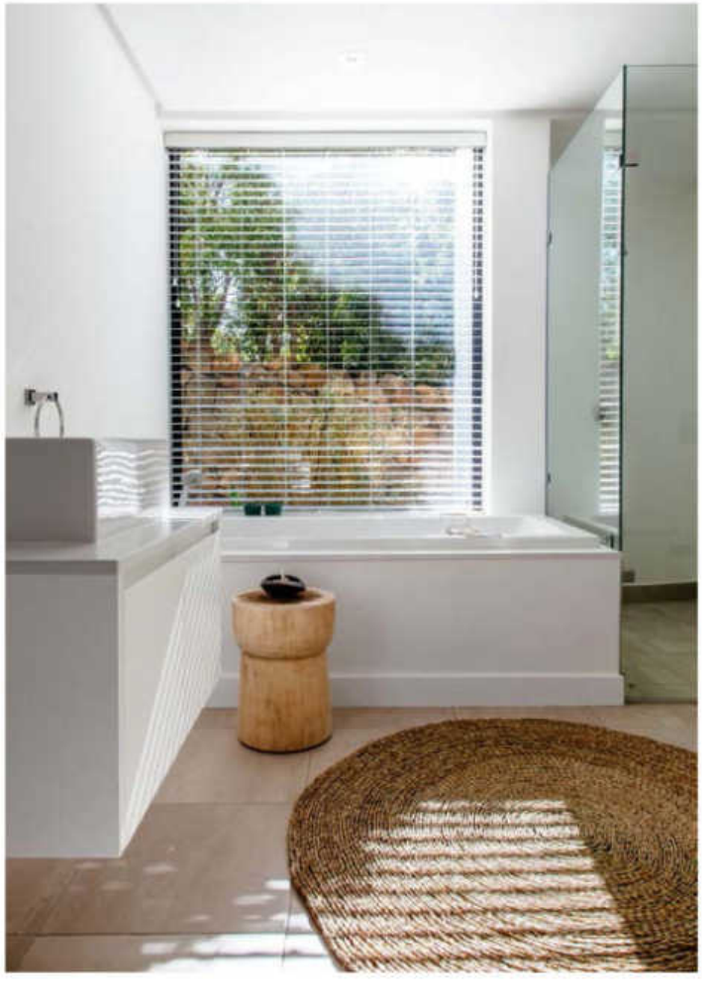
LIVING ROOM {opposite, above & right} Amelia and Grant's home was designed to capture every bit of light and ray of sunshine – evidenced beautifully in the living room. Louvred windows at either pitched end of the space can be tilted to catch cross-breezes. A double-sided fireplace (glimpsed above, far right) separates the living and dining spaces, without impeding the 360-degree view. While celebrating the home's stunning light through neutral tones, designer Kate also used texture to add warmth and interest. A marble and wood coffee table from Loft Living in South Africa (try Eco Chic here for similar) takes centre stage in the conversation corner of the living room, while clustered side tables in blond wood contrast becomingly; for similar Bamileke tables, try Zohi Interiors. Colour has been used sparingly but to dramatic effect, with artworks – a photographic print of Table Mountain from a local gallery (left) and a painting by Angie Wilson (right) – offering bright splashes of blue and green. >





FLOORING
Get the look with 'Panama' jute carpet, $62.50/sqm, International Floorcoverings.

"THE HOME HAS GREAT FLOW FROM THE LIVING AREAS TO THE GARDEN, BUT ALSO FEELS VERY CONTAINED AND INTIMATE" ~ KATE

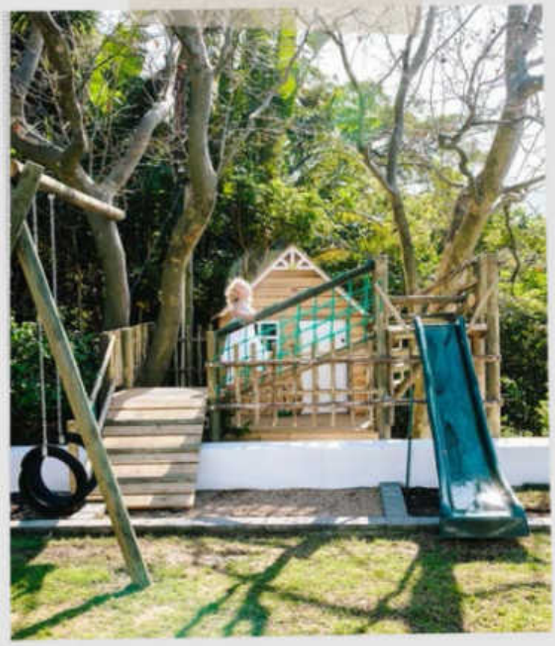


MAIN BEDROOM {above} This room might have lovely views, but the most gorgeous scenery is within its walls, with interior designer Kate transforming the space into a marine-inspired retreat for Amelia and Grant. Jute flooring and fabrics in blue and grey complete the relaxed beach-house look. A mix of old and new pieces was used to furnish the room; the Chinese prints above the bed are prized pieces inherited by Amelia and Grant, while the bedhead and indigo sofa were custom-made. Dark mahogany chairs were reinvented for the room, painted white and reupholstered in Fabricut 'Anytime Swirl' fabric (for Australian stockists, contact The Textile Company).

GUEST ENSUITE {left} A large part of the renovation involved expanding the downstairs bedrooms, which were a little on the small side. As architect Rick Brown expanded the guest bedroom out into the hallway, an existing bathroom became a generous ensuite, which designer Kate finished in sandy neutrals. Touches of timber and natural fibres add warmth to the scene; get the look with an 'Eggcup' stool from Mark Tuckey and a 'Zinnia' hemp rug from Armadillo & Co.



STUDY The renovation extended into the roof space above the garage to accommodate a generously proportioned study for Amelia and Grant. Desks were custom-made to fit either side of the area, with a central meeting zone defined by Jasper Morrison 'Air' chairs (available from Cult) and a timber table on a graphic rug; for similar, try Armadillo & Co's 'Crosscut'. >



Youngest daughter Grace plays in the cubbyhouse, which was built around existing trees.

INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

Amelia and Grant; their young daughters Evie and Grace; and two dogs.

How would you describe your style?

Amelia: "Relaxed, informal and focused on family."

What was the design process like?

"We had worked with Kate before on our beach house, so we trusted her completely and really just gave her our brief and left her to it. The occasional catch-up about fabrics and furniture was all that was required – the perfect client-decorator relationship, we think!"

What is your favourite part of the home?

"All the living areas and the way they are linked to the garden. On a beautiful day, it all becomes one big space where we can relax, entertain and keep an eye on the girls simultaneously."

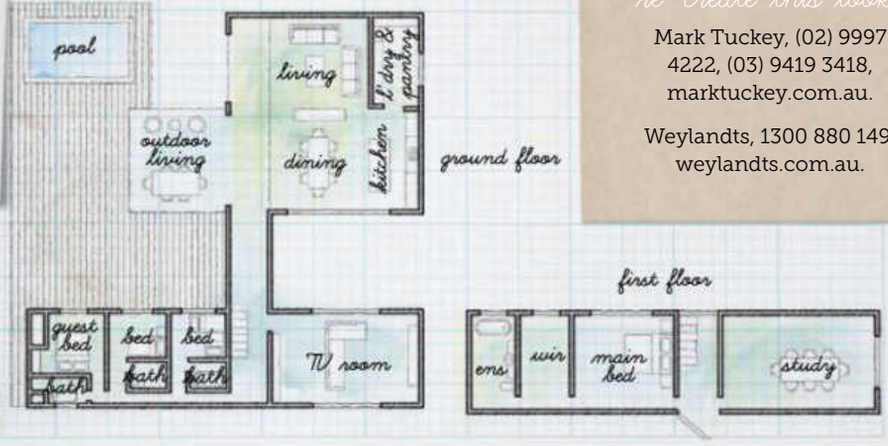
What makes the house work so well for your family?

"The living areas are really conducive to all of us getting on with whatever we feel like doing without being split up or segregated in any way."



A shady decked area by the pool takes in mountain and sea views.

PLANS



CONTACTS

Visit these stores to re-create this look:

Mark Tuckey, (02) 9997 4222, (03) 9419 3418, marktuckey.com.au.

Weylandts, 1300 880 149, weylandts.com.au.

ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM



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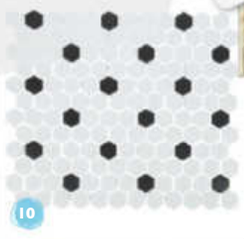






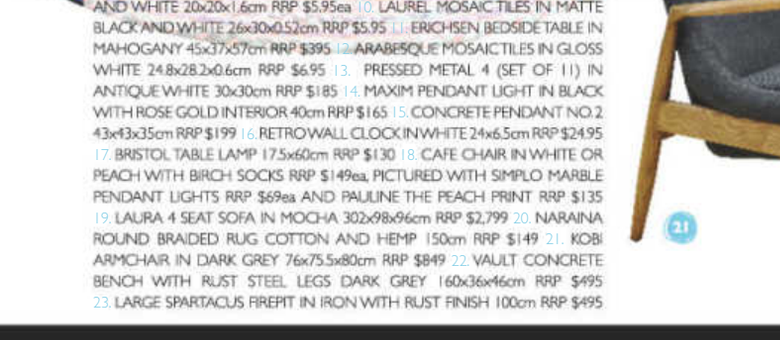












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'Tis the season

...for family, friends and fabulous feasts. And we're here to help: with advice on everything from getting guest-ready and creating the perfect wreath to where to store the bubbly. Read on for more.

PHOTOGRAPHY NICKY RYAN



THE

GUEST EFFECT

Some savvy organising before family and friends arrive can take the stress and mess out of the holiday season. Here's how to nail it...

WORDS **ANNA McCOOE**

MIRACLES ASIDE, the magic of a fantastic Christmas comes down to planning, often executed with military-like precision in the weeks leading up to the festivities. There are practicalities to consider: overnight guests need beds, grandparents might require comfy seating, toddlers will want room to run around. Then there's the question of atmosphere: that ephemeral mix of chemistry and mood that can immortalise events for decades to come. By getting a jump on preparations before guests arrive, you'll be more likely to enjoy the occasion. So, here it is, our point-by-point plan for a dream-run Christmas – where good times ensue and (almost) everything goes to plan.

Set the table and create the mood the night before (**here & opposite, bottom**) to reduce Christmas morning busyness.

+ TEST YOUR FAIRY LIGHTS

Before you put them on the tree (and the stores run out of stock), give your fairy lights a dry run. Then, when it's time to decorate the tree, *HB*'s creative and food director, Imogene Abady, recommends putting the lights on first. "That way, you can get the spacing of ornaments right," she says.

+ HELP YOUR TREE LAST

A real pine tree (left) evokes unmatched Christmas nostalgia. When you buy your tree, run your hands over the branches – the fewer loose needles, the healthier it is. Saw off the bottom at a slight angle and place the trunk in water before a seal forms on the base. Top up the water every few days.

+ SHARE THE LOAD

When guests want to help, say a resounding yes. Ask visitors to bring a cheese plate, ice and perhaps breakfast for the next day; or get them to work setting the table and passing around nibbles and drinks (right). The same goes with offers to clean up.

+ PLAN YOUR PLAYLIST

Music is an essential mood-maker and also something that tends to get left to the last minute. Take the pressure off by inviting your guests to share the music on their phones or tablets, which can be synced to bluetooth speakers and played throughout the house. Try the Logitech 'X100' bluetooth portable speaker, $59, from Harvey Norman.



If you're really serious about keeping your Christmas tree in TIP-TOP SHAPE, mist it with an ANTI-TRANSPIRANT such as Yates' Wiltnot before you start decorating



+ CHILDPROOF YOUR TREASURES

"Be aware that anything at child height might get damaged," says Imogene, who recommends moving precious objects to higher ground before guests arrive. "Parents with young children will naturally worry that their offspring will wreak havoc. If you deal with the problem before they come, everyone will be more relaxed." A securable chest is a great idea: the 'Darwin' trunk, $149, from Freedom, is a stylish option.

+ KEEP IT COOL

Dave Smith of Fujitsu General says the most universally comfortable temperature in summer is 23°C. But before switching on your air con for the season's first warm day, take time to blow out the cobwebs. Dave suggests cleaning filters and scheduling a maintenance check with a licensed air-conditioning specialist if this hasn't been done for two years. Most brands can recommend a qualified local: call the service centre or visit the website for details. >



PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) GAP INTERIORS/CLIVE NICHOLS. (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) JEAN PAUL URIZAR, CHRIS WARNES, MIKKEL VANG



Don't forget

+ MATCHES
+ ICE
+ PAPER TOWELS
+ CANDLES
+ BIN BAGS
+ A BOX FOR RECYCLING WRAPPING PAPER

Get the kids involved: they can help decorate the tree or create a pretty table setting (below left).

+ CURATE A KIDS' PACK

The secret to thrilling young guests is to surprise them with an activity pack. Think holiday home, and round up drawing supplies and activity books. Stock up on board games and outdoor equipment for games such as bocce and croquet (below) that everyone can play.



If your deck area needs SOME TLC, try a specialist range such as White Knight's Renew It, which will give NEW LIFE to your timber



+ THINK INSIDE THE BOX

The longer your guests stay, the more likely you are to need multiple televisions to settle the battle between the Boxing Day Test and another viewing of *Frozen*. You could toss a coin... or consider renting a TV for the holiday period; try rentlo.com.au.

+ CLEAR THE DECKS

If you have been meaning to pay your outdoor floorboards some attention, now is the time to get serious. Start by scrubbing the timber with a firm bristle brush; a cap of Napisan in a bucket of warm water will help remove sap and debris. Let the timber dry for two days, then apply one or two coats of decking oil, allowing another two to three days for drying. >



PHOTOGRAPHY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) PEGGY JANSSEN/WILMA CUSTERS/FEATURES & MORE, SHANIA SHEGEDYN, DEREK SWALWELL, NICKY RYAN

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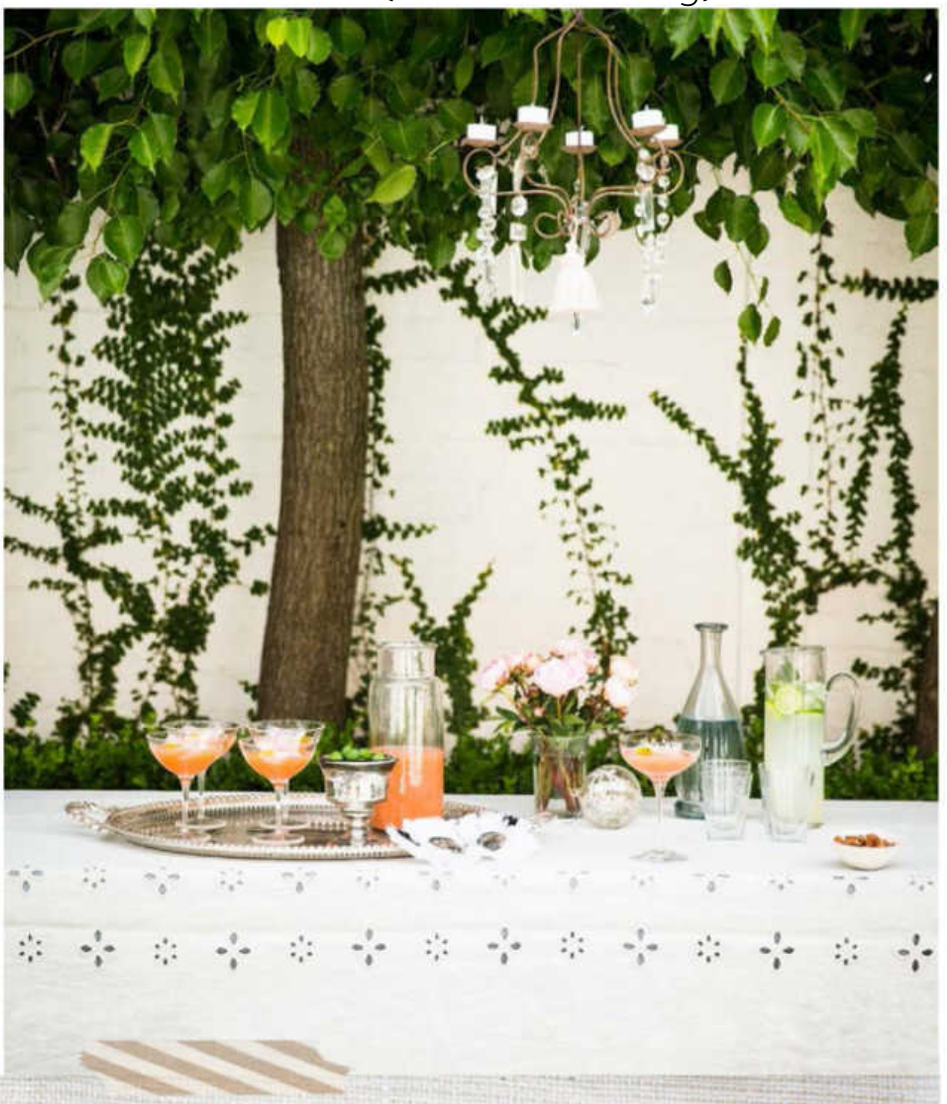


ENTERTAIN WITH EASE

TRY OUR TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAKE THE DAY SPECIAL FOR EVERYONE

+ PLAN A ROAMING MENU

At Lake House, a luxurious hotel and spa in Victoria's Daylesford, Christmas lunch is served around the whole property. "We start the day with Champagne and cocktails in the sunshine, followed by a family-style celebratory lunch as we sit down at two long shared tables," the hotel's Larissa Wolf-Tasker explains. You can follow suit by planning courses that can be enjoyed outside or in the living area. And when the kitchen is going to be tied up preparing Christmas lunch or dinner, plan a barbecue breakfast and picnic spreads that can be prepared and served elsewhere.



+ SET UP A DRINKS STATION

(right) and position it away from the kitchen. Ensure it includes a large glass dispenser (try Pottery Barn or Victoria's Basement) and ice buckets. Also, transfer your kettle and coffee machine to a drinks trolley parked in a spot that's easily accessible, and stock up on coffee, tea and those Nespresso pods. Try Freedom's 'Savoy' trolley, $249.

+ INVENTORY YOUR ESSENTIALS

Count your crockery, cutlery and glasses well ahead of time. If you don't have enough of the first, Maxwell & Williams has a vast range of affordable plain white tableware that will co-ordinate with existing pieces. Ensure, too, that you have enough chairs and table space, but don't worry about getting it perfect: mismatched chairs have a knockabout charm that suits the season. Need to bring in a trestle or table-tennis table to cope with numbers? Then invest in a lovely festive tablecloth.

+ PASS THE PANTRY TEST

If you give your visitors free reign over the kitchen, your life will be easier and they will feel more at home. Professional organiser Tanya Lea of Declutter Home suggests doing a pre-season cull of any out-of-date food, and grouping together similar items in large containers or on trays. "This makes for easy access and creates more shelf space," she says.

Do your RESEARCH EARLY and collect a batch of great, simple recipes that incorporate the likely leftovers from Christmas Day. TURKEY EMPANADAS, anyone?



+ PREP FOR CHILLING

Have a second fridge? Turn it on two days before you need it – this will be enough time for the gasses to settle and will allow the fridge to reach a safe temperature for food storage. Otherwise, free up the laundry sink, invest in a couple of large plastic tubs – try Bunnings – or find a classic vintage bucket (left) and fill with ice.

+ GET THE BARBECUE READY

Put gas refills, coals and fire lighters on your shopping list and give the hotplates a good clean with newspaper and warm water mixed with white vinegar. Finish with a protective coat of cooking oil.

+ BE PREPARED FOR LEFTOVERS

The days after Christmas will run smoothly if family and friends can graze on ham and salads (serve dressings on the side on the big day so salads will keep). Clear out the fridge as much as possible, and stock up on stackable storage containers. >



Keep post-Christmas meals simple... think cheese, olives, fruit.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) CHRIS WARNES. (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) CHRIS WARNES, NICKY RYAN

GUEST BEDROOM

CREATE A WARM WELCOME FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE



+ CLEAR THE AIR

Start opening the windows a few days before guests arrive to give the room time to breathe. Also, cast a judicious eye over curtains and carpet to see if they need a professional clean. Your guests won't be as critical, but they will feel the love if they are greeted with an uplifting place to sleep.

+ STYLE THE BEDSIDE TABLE

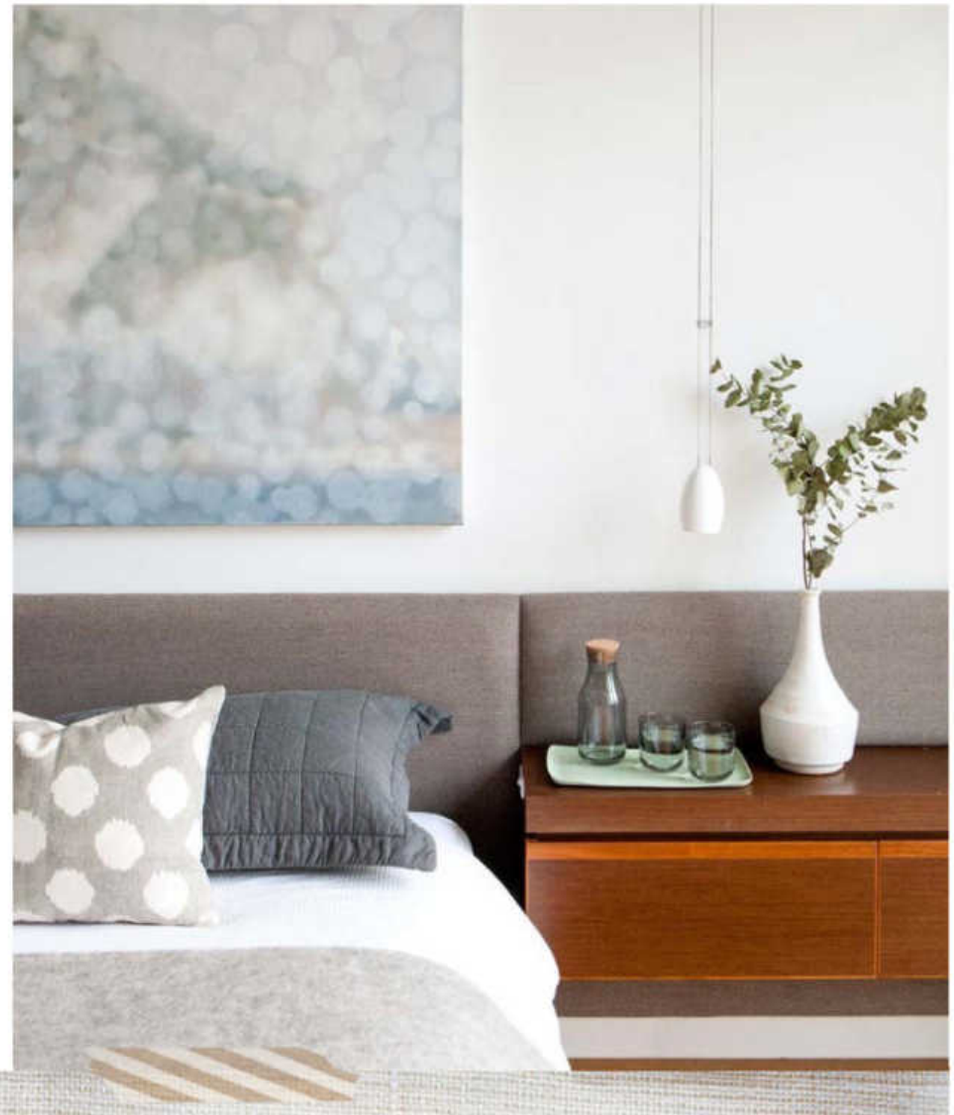
"A jug of water by the bed [right] is always a thoughtful touch," says *HB*'s Imogene. The bedroom is your guest's private escape, so invite them to linger with the addition of a reading lamp. A few magazines, books or a single flower in a vase on the bedside table will also add warmth.

+ CREATE SPACE TO UNPACK

Take your cues from hotel style and spread a blanket over the bottom of the bed. It will add five-star polish, save your linen from grubby suitcases and give guests a place to unpack. Spare bedrooms tend to be a dumping ground for just about everything, so now's the time to clean up. "Dedicate some time each week to clear one section or one drawer at a time," says Declutter Home's Tanya. Pack away winter clothes in vacuum-sealed bags such as the 'Original Space Bag', $15, from Target.

+ ADD CLOUD-LIKE COMFORT

For regular sleepovers, consider a good-quality sofa bed, such as King Living's 'Felix Studio Bed', $3250, or up the comfort on an existing mattress with a feather topper (relocate it to another bed post-Christmas). Consider the 'Downtime Deluxe Mattress Topper', $180, from Adairs. Sprinkle a little scented powder on top – try Crabtree & Evelyn's 'Summer Hill' talc-free powder, $24, from Myer – for a subtle aroma.



"Give the bed the SAME TREATMENT it would receive at an upmarket hotel. Use light coloured linen as this will give the room a FRESH FEEL" ~ Stacey, The Domestic Goddess



+ TURN DOWN THE ROOM

If guests are arriving in the day, throw open the curtains and switch on the fan or air conditioner. For evening arrivals, dim the lights and switch on a bedside lamp. A scented candle (left) will take the atmosphere to the next level. If your guest room usually doubles as a study or TV room, switch off screens at power points and hide away anything that glows: research shows that light from technology throws out the body's circadian rhythm, disturbing sleep.

+ CHECK LINEN SUPPLIES

Ensure you have enough linen (right). If you have to buy more, you'll need time to wash and dry it before use. If possible, provide guests with a variety of pillows and blankets. Pillow protectors lengthen a pillow's life and also make for a smoother look, while running an iron over the made-up bed will give the final tailored touch. Finish with a spritz of linen spray – Jo Malone's Lino Nel Vento, $85, perhaps – for a luxe addition. >



PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) CHRIS WARNES. (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) SUE STUBBS, CATH MUSCAT

GUEST BATHROOM

TURN THIS WORKADAY AREA
INTO A BATHING BEAUTY



+ FIVE-STAR POLISH

Once you've emptied bins and cleared the decks of detritus, it's time for the details. For the shower and shower screen, Stacey Barrass of The Domestic Goddess recommends a multi-purpose spray and a skinny scrubbing brush or old toothbrush for tackling grout. Bicarb soda mixed with vinegar will bring benchtops, taps and basins to a shine. For mirrors, use a clean cloth dipped in hot water. "Wring the cloth to semi-dry," advises Stacey. "Wipe it over the mirror and then use a dry towel to polish it dry." >

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*E. coli, S. aureus.

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A chic stool or chair adds valuable space. Provide essential supplies (below right) and ensure your storage looks stylish (below left).

+ PULL UP A CHAIR

Providing somewhere to place bathroom bags and grooming supplies will be much appreciated by your guests. If the bench space in your bathroom is limited, a little extra will go a long way, even if it's just a chair or stool borrowed from another room.

+ INCLUDE A SPARE HAIR DRYER

Hair dryers top the list of house guests' most-frequently borrowed items, so give visitors their own dedicated styling tools, and they won't have to ask for yours.

+ STOCK UP ON TOILET PAPER

Essentials such as loo paper are often forgotten. Pop spare rolls in a basket in plain sight so guests don't have to ask.

+ THINK ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a family with small children coming to stay, consider giving them the run of the bathroom that has a bath. Less mobile guests will appreciate access to a wash zone with a handheld shower, if you have one, or a walk-in shower.

Need to revive TIRED TOWELS? "Pop them into the dryer with a supermarket-variety softening dryer sheet. It really FLUFFS THEM UP" ~ Imogene, *HB* creative director



+ CLEAN OUT CUPBOARDS

If children will be using the space, get rid of old medicines and move anything toxic to a kid-proof location (try a contemporary medicine box, such as Howards Storage World's version, $42.95). A laundry hamper will also help guests stay organised.

+ CREATE AN AMENITY KIT

"It's always nice to make up a guest pack of essential supplies," says Tanya Lea. Think about the little things that are hard to pack or easy to forget and add thoughtful extras such as mini soaps, shower gel and shampoo. Shower caps come in handy, as do cotton buds, cotton wool balls and a few spare (new) toothbrushes. It's also worth cruising the beauty counters for samples and travel-sized products from the likes of Aesop and Jurlique.



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Modern Vintage



Trending

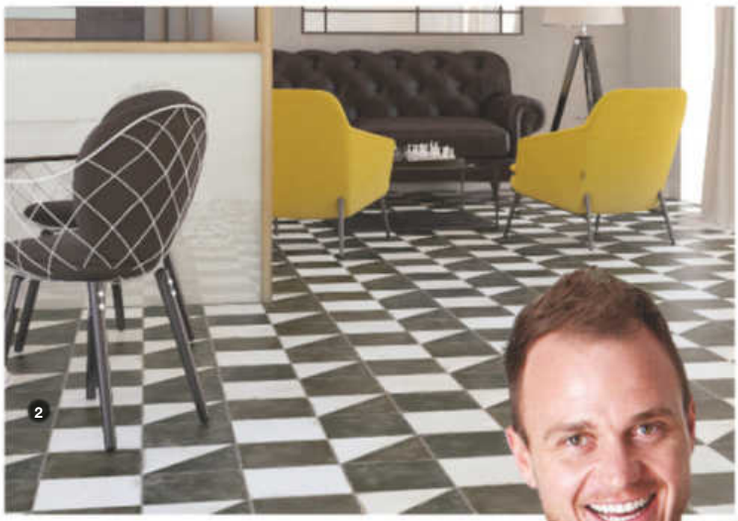
Modern vintage is epitomised by old classics given a re-focused modern perspective. Timeless patterns take on new formations. Traditional tiles are given sleek new formats. Modern styling assumes a lifelong history with worn rustic characteristics.



Designer's Tip

Select a statement pattern tile, then support it with reclaimed timber look or concrete look tiles. When using subway tiles lay them in creative formats and select a contrasting grout colour. The Grout then becomes the pattern! Metallic's are the jewellery to a bathroom, style with brass, copper, chrome, or gold to finish the look.





1. Fusion Blend Grey 200 x 600mm
2. Antico Checker Triangle 450 x 450mm
3. Devonshire Sky Gloss 75 x 300mm
4. Agrestic Ash Gloss 75 x 300mm
5. Agrestic Black Gloss 75 x 300mm
6. Nostalgia Sink Mixer Gold 220mm
7. Templar Guild Charcoal 300 x 300mm
8. Medley Mix 300 x 300mm
9. Talbot Claw Foot Free Standing Bath 1750mm
10. Kyal & Kara pictured with Templar Herald Grey Textured 300x300

All tiles and bathroomware by Beaumont Tiles.





BEAUTIFUL IDEAS

for a homemade christmas

Handmade delights to help make the holidays even more special

STYLING **HEIDI ALBERTIRI & JOHN MANGILA**
PHOTOGRAPHY **NATALIE HUNFALVAY**

WITH THANKS

Show your gratitude with a thoughtful fragrant gift. Take three bunches of flowers of varying sizes and clean all stems of branches. Group flowers together with the largest bunch at the back, then tie stems together with string. Finish with a natural-style wrap, ribbon and small trinket.



Jute in Natural, $17.50/10m roll, 'Grosgrain Stripes' **ribbon** in Mid Brown, $16.90/20m, 'Hanging Crafted Star' **decoration** in Natural, $8.40/pack of 2, all Koch & Co.

FESTIVE TABLE SETTINGS

Layers of fragrant and earthy elements can transform a lonely napkin into a beautiful personalised place setting for the Christmas table. Write your guests' names on small chalkboard tags, then string onto cotton ribbon, along with a cute ceramic decoration, before tying around loosely folded napkins. Finish by tucking a fresh sprig of pine behind the ribbon for a hint of festive scents.

Jute in Natural, $17.50/10m roll, 'Saddle Stitch' cotton **ribbon** in Natural, $10.50/20m, both Koch & Co. American Crafts 'DIY Shop' chalkboard **tags**, $3/pack of 10, Spotlight. 'Walnut' **decorations**, $22.50/set of 5, Kuberstore. For similar plates, try Kim Wallace Ceramics. For similar napkin, try Dunlin. Cutlery, stylist's own.



USE THE *florals* OF THE SEASON TO CREATE A GIFT THAT'S PRECIOUS AND *personal*

FRESH-FLOWER WREATH

It's easy to make a beautiful handmade front door accessory with an Oasis 'Wet Wreath' (available online) and your favourite flowers, blossoms and foliages from the garden. Choose a focal bloom to place around the circle to draw attention, then select other flowers that blend in colour and textures. Continue all the way around the wreath, alternating your flowers to create a flow from one section to the next. Turn the wreath around to look at it from every angle to ensure all the base is covered. Fix a ribbon to the back if you want to hang the wreath, or use your creation as a fabulous table decoration. >



Oasis **wreath** base, $5.45/20cm, 'Grosgrain Stripes' **ribbon** in Mid Brown, $16.90/20m, both Koch & Co. Stockists, page 237

VISIT *home beautiful's* FACEBOOK PAGE TO WATCH A VIDEO OF OUR STYLIST HEIDI ALBERTIRI CREATING THIS WREATH



ART OF GIVING

Wrap your gifts in glamorous gold or red paper, then introduce another element by enclosing feathers under a single layer of tracing paper. Or, to add more sparkle, scatter red sequins onto tracing paper before folding into a long sleeve – enclosing the sequins inside. Top with pretty ribbons and holly sprigs. >



Metal foil **paper** in Gold, $6/4m roll, **ribbons**, $1.50/3m spool, both Spotlight. A2 **tracing paper**, $1.30/sheet, **sequins**, $6.80, turkey **feathers** in Eggshell, $3.95/pack of 50, all Eckersley's Art & Craft. Woodduck Press letterpress **gift tags**, $16.95 each, 'Joyeux Noël' **card**, $29.95/pack of 8, 'Do Not Open Until 25 December' **gift tag**, $10.95/pack of 6, all Paper 2. 'Red With Dots' **wrapping paper**, $3.95, Pulp Creative Papers. Brass **scissors**, $25, The Lost And Found Department. Stockists, page 237

WAGNER

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NAVY & WHITE

Invite imperfections into a polished palette. Pleat, fold, crumple, or even snip a fringe into white paper to create textural appeal against elegant deep navy accents and pine sprigs. Gold decorations and ribbons add a hint of glam.

Right: Fan disc **decorations** in White and Gold, $3.95 each, Ruby Star Traders. 'No Peeking' **gift tags**, $24.95/pack of 10, 'Pine cones' and 'City Christmas' **wrapping paper**, both $3/m, all Paper 2. For similar gold ribbon, try Spotlight. 'Noel Star' **ornament** in Gold, $8.95, Country Road. 'Ho, Ho, Ho' **gift tag**, $1.50, Papier D'Amour. Grosgrain **ribbon** in Navy, $1.25/m, Eckersley's Art & Craft.

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FLORAL INTERLUDES

Bring your gifts to life with papers full of blooms. Try cutting around a few bold patterns or make strips of alternating designs to layer on top of kraft paper. Decorate with bright ribbons and ceramic tags along with fresh flowers for an extra burst of petal power. >

Left: Pillow **gift box**, $2.50/small, Pulp Creative Paper. Ceramic Christmas **gift tags**, $12.50 each, Paper 2. 'Watercolour Floral' **wrapping paper**, $15/pack of 3, Bespoke Letterpress. Kraft **paper**, $6.99/8m roll, Spotlight. 'Blue Fusion Floral' and 'Oriental Chic' **cardstock**, $1.60/sheet, Lincraft. For similar ribbons, try Spotlight.
Stockists, page 237

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READY TO POP

Start dinner with a stylish bang by making your own bon bons – you can find the inner rolls and all-important "snaps" at most craft stores. Secure a snap inside a cardboard roll with sticky tape and insert your special surprises. Wrap paper around the roll and twist the ends. Tie with twine or ribbon, then attach decorations.



DIY STYLE

For a rustic look, keep to a traditional colour scheme, with jute bands and twine. Paired with gift tags, the bon bons can also double as place cards.

Left & above: Craftworkz bon bon **rolls**, $6.75/pack of 12, and bon bon **snaps**, $20.85/pack of 144, all Tilly's Art & Office Supplies. 'Chalkboard' in Spice Red and 'Starry Night' in Red/Gold **wrapping papers**, $8/3m roll, both Papier D'Amour. 'Woodland Wonderland' letterpress **gift tags**, $12.95/pack of 8, Bespoke Letterpress. Braided **jute** in Natural, $1.25/m, Eckersley's Art & Craft. **Confetti**, $3.20, Spotlight. For similar prizes, try Big W. All other accessories, stylist's own.



DIY STYLE

Go glam with shimmering layers of metallic and tissue papers topped with an origami-style ornament that guests can take home as a keepsake.

Above: Bon bon **rolls** and bon bon **snaps**, as above. Cristina Re 'Peacock Plumes' **paper** in Grey, $17/pack of 5, Krystal **tissue paper** in White, $2.50/pack of 5, Krystal **tissue paper** in Silver, $2.50/pack of 3, all Spotlight. Paper star **ornaments**, $12.95/pack of 6, Kikki K. For similar prizes, try Big W. All other accessories, stylist's own. Right: Patterned **gift box**, $2, Jolly & Joy metal angel **ornament**, $10, both Spotlight. Ribbon, stylist's own. All other items, as above. Stockists, page 237





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home beautiful RENOVATION of the year

IN ASSOCIATION WITH NAB

1 Before



NEW MEMORIES
When the Sawyers moved into this original 1920s home, it had rooms and passages that didn't flow or meet the needs of the family of seven – so it was time for a change.

Meet the Renovation of the Year judges



WENDY MOORE
Editor of *Home Beautiful*

With almost 10 years at the helm of *Home Beautiful*, Wendy is one of Australia's foremost experts on lifestyle and interiors. She is also a judge on Channel 7's TV series *House Rules*.



MEG BONIGHTON
NAB General Manager, Home Lending

Meg is responsible for product design and management, as well as portfolio management, of NAB's home lending products across retail, direct and third party channels.

Visit www.homebeautiful.com.au for full terms & conditions. Entrants must be a current registered homeowner. Competition opens 07/09/15 10:00 AEST & closes 15/11/15 23:59 AEDT. Winners judged at Promoter's premises 17/11/15 11:00 AEDT. Winners notified by mail. Total prize value up to $15,000. The Promoter is Pacific Magazines Pty Ltd 8 Central Ave, Eveleigh NSW 2015 (ABN 16 097 410 896).

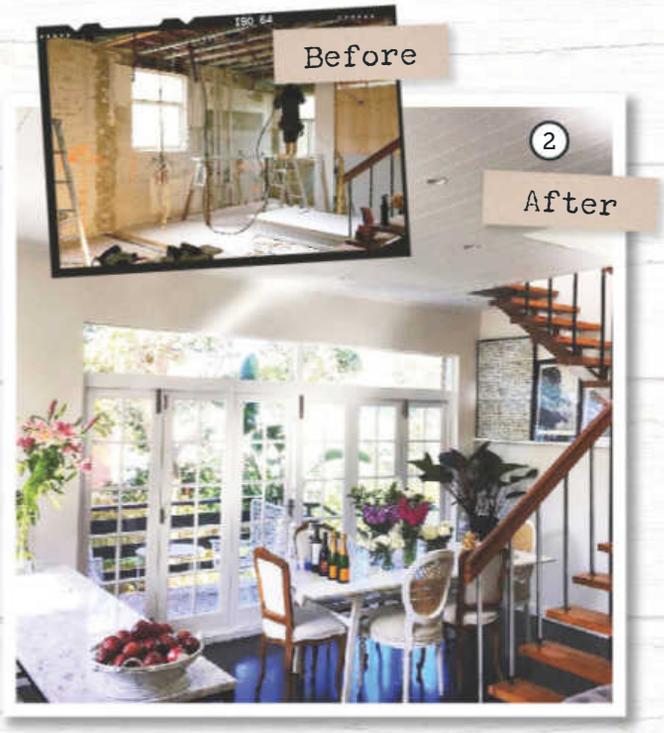
We've been left speechless by the extraordinary entries we have received for our Renovation of the Year competition and just had to share a few of our favourites with you.

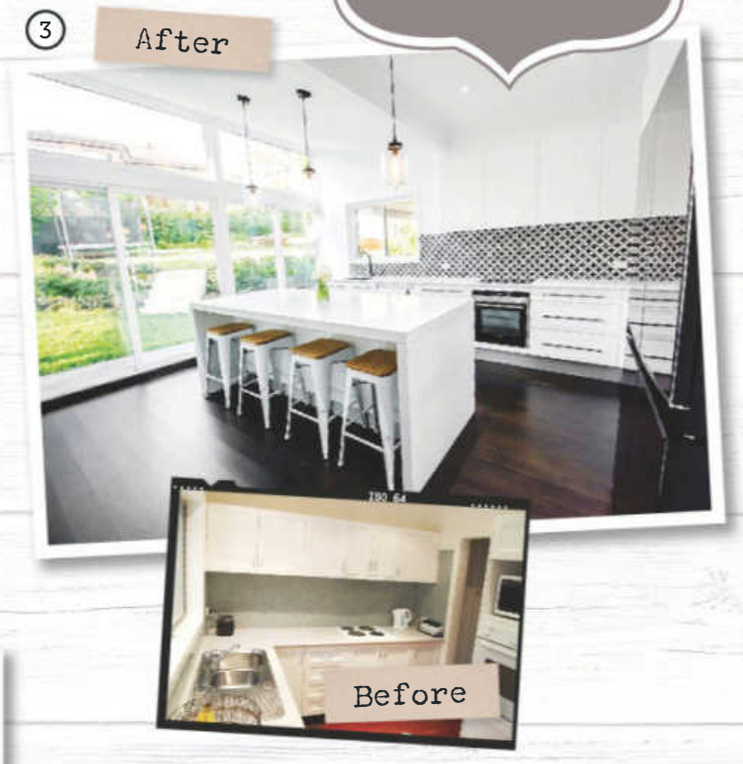
Entrants stand to win a share of $15,000

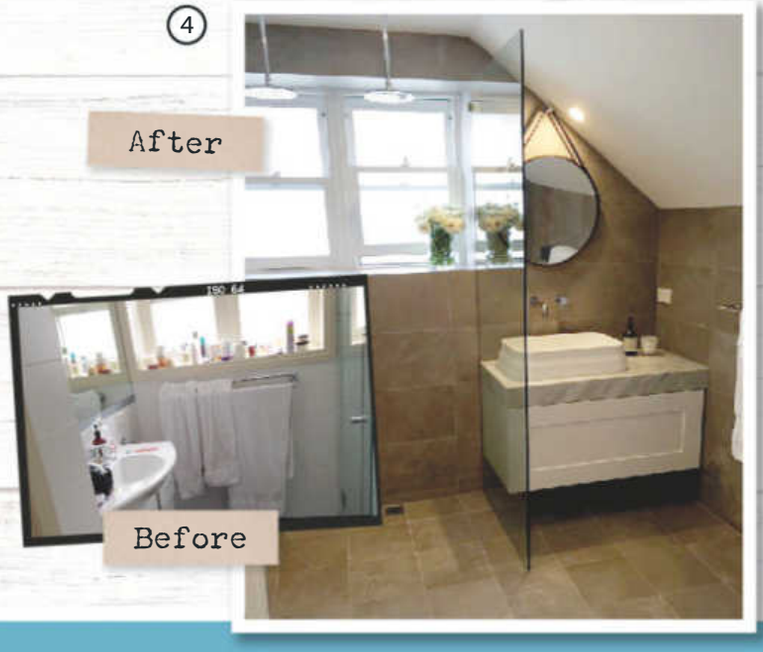
Major renovation prize: $10,000 cash

Minor renovation prize: $5000 cash

GOOD LUCK TO ALL WHO ENTERED!







2 LIVING FRENCH

By knocking out three walls, the Bronnebergs transformed their living and dining space, which now features beautiful French doors opening to a deck and the tranquil garden.

3 DREAM KITCHEN

The Strathers' kitchen was transformed from a once-tiny and cramped room into a modern, open-plan entertainer in a fresh monochrome finish with a stunning wall of glass.

4 ENSUITE MAKEOVER

With a sloping ceiling and dated fittings, the Cadmans' ensuite was in need of a fresh start. The entire space was redesigned into a luxurious and spacious room complete with under-floor heating and a mounted marble-topped vanity.

How to stick to your renovation budget

The basis of a good renovation budget is setting a realistic one in the first place. But even then, you may need a little help sticking to it. Here are a few pointers to help you on your way:



1. Learn the budgeting basics before you start. Your budget (and renovation) needs to be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely.
2. Keep track of every dollar you spend, including furniture and appliances.
3. Leave a buffer of about 10 to 20 per cent of your budget for unexpected costs.

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KITCHENS:

wine storage 101

With the summer entertaining season upon us, find the best way to keep your vino perfectly chilled and at the ready

WORDS **KYLIE JACKES**



PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTINA KAYSER ONSGAARD/HOUSE OF PICTURES/PICTURE MEDIA

NO LONGER a luxury reserved for connoisseurs with sizeable cellars, wine cabinets – shelved units designed to store wine at optimal temperatures – are fast becoming a must-have on wine-drinkers' wishlists. "With our expanding wine culture and love of entertaining at home, Australians now appreciate the importance of storing wine properly, particularly in our hot climate," says Thomas Benhamou of Vintec Australia. Of course, you can still store your favourite tipples in a stylish wine rack… but placement is key. Here, we help you make sense of the wine storage options available. Cheers!



SPOILED FOR CHOICE

Wine cabinet or fridge? For those who take their wine seriously, a climate-controlled cabinet is a better option than a wine cooler or bar fridge. The latter generates intense cold and generally removes ambient humidity to the detriment of wine over time, explains Vintec Australia's Thomas Benhamou. "Wine cabinets have inclusions such as a humidity-management system to preserve corks, dark interiors with dim LED lighting, UV-treated tinted glass doors and wooden shelves to absorb vibrations," he says.

Generally, cabinets work best when full, yet always check the weight limit on shelves to ensure the cabinet isn't overstacked, cautions Mark Bradstreet of Cracka Wines. Alternatively, if you are just starting out or have a modest cellar, try to space the bottles evenly through the unit, ensuring there is plenty of room for air to circulate and that the internal sensors and fans aren't blocked.

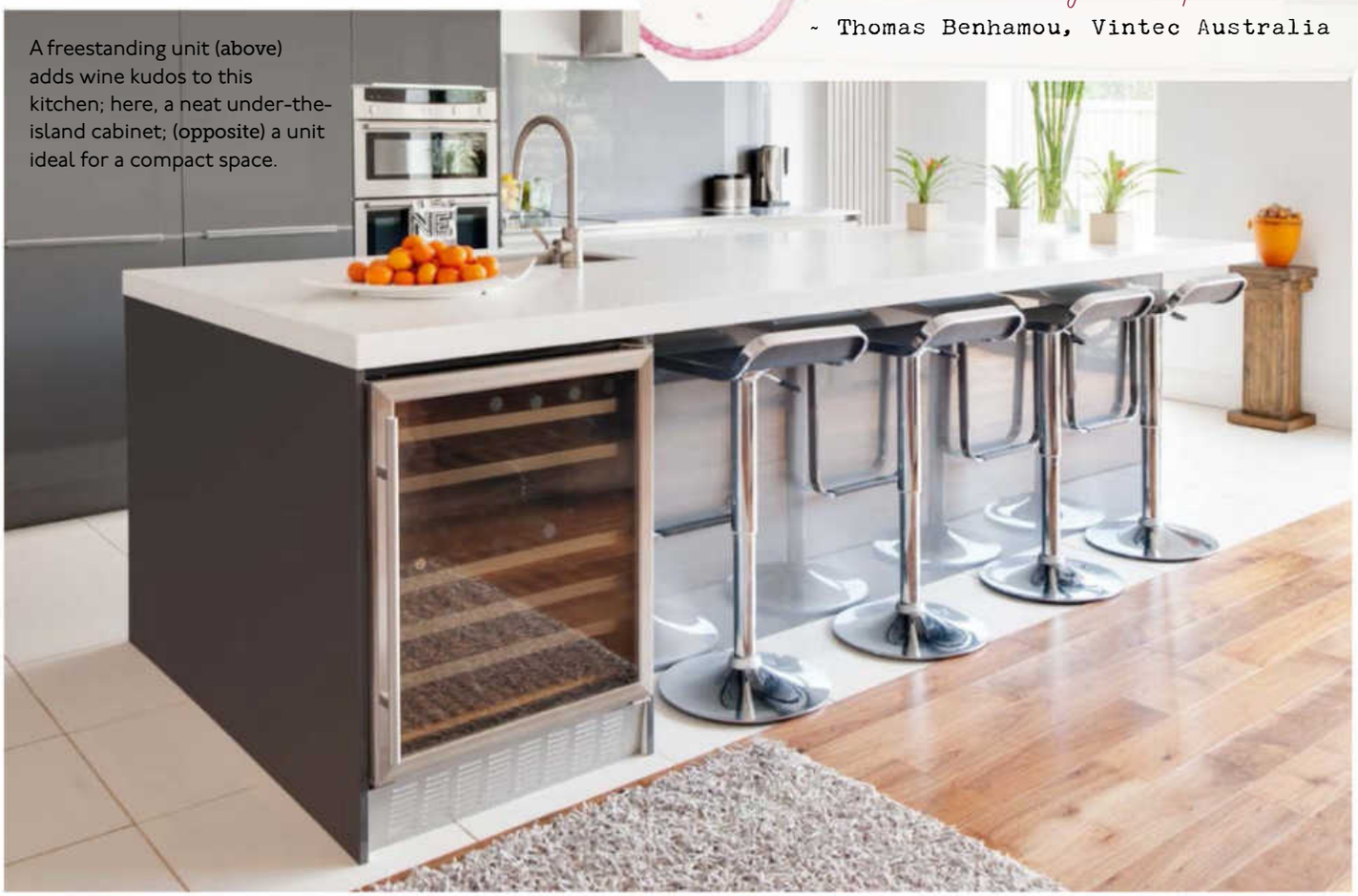
Wine has optimum lengths of cellaring that depend on the varietal, people's palette and bottle size, as larger bottles such as magnums take longer to age. "Cellaring wine requires storage in a single-temperature wine cabinet where there's a consistent controlled temperature. This allows the bottle to mature over time as desired," says Tania MacPhee of wine storage specialist MacPhee's. "For shorter-term drinking, dual zone units are designed to keep whites colder than reds, while multiple-temperature cabinets allow you to serve different varietals at different temperatures."

As for placement, you will want your wine cabinet handy, so the kitchen is an ideal spot. A full cabinet is very heavy, so ensure floors can bear the weight. Proper ventilation, room temperature and space for opening doors are also factors that need to be considered.

"If looking to *store* your wine long-term, a single-temperature model is a *great option*"

~ Thomas Benhamou, Vintec Australia

A freestanding unit (above) adds wine kudos to this kitchen; here, a neat under-the-island cabinet; (opposite) a unit ideal for a compact space.



PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP) JOE SCHMELZER, TRESUREBITE STUDIO, INC., (BOTTOM) GAP INTERIORS/JOHNNY BOUCHIER, (OPPOSITE) GAP INTERIORS/RICHARD GADSBY

STOCKING UP

The type and size of cabinet you choose will depend on several things: available space in your kitchen, how many bottles you're looking to store, and whether the cabinet is for cellaring or simply keeping your favourites at the perfect drinking temperature. Multi-temperature units can also be an entertainer's saviour by having various wines ready to serve. There's an increasingly large selection of temperature-controlled cabinets, from large capacity, freestanding versions to slimline units and under-bench integrated styles. "The trend is towards minimal design with the option of customising doors and finishes," says Tania MacPhee. "You can also configure shelving with soft close, champagne or presentation shelves, to meet the needs of your collection." Another point to think about is whether your collection is likely to grow, says Tania. "Often people start to buy more wine once they've sorted out proper wine storage, so it can be worthwhile investing in a unit with a slightly larger capacity than you think you may initially need," she says. "This will ensure there's plenty of space as your wine enjoyment increases."



FABULOUS FIZZ

Grant Burge Wines shares its three top tips for keeping your champagne or sparkling wine in perfect nick.

1. Regardless of whether you have a wine cabinet or a rack, temperature control is critical. Sparkling wine should be kept at a consistent temperature of about 12-16 degrees year round.
2. Whichever method you use for storage, it's best to avoid direct sunlight.
3. It's important to store sparkling wine horizontally so the wine stays in contact with the cork. It's also best to keep the wine in one spot to avoid movement and vibrations, as this can unsettle the wine. >

Shopping: WINE CABINETS



'JC160GD' 51-bottle wine cabinet, $1099, Haier.



Grand Cru '46D' dual-zone 46-bottle wine cabinet, $899, Home Icon.



'ALV190SG2E' multi-zone 170-bottle wine cabinet, $3800, Vintec Australia.



'RF206RDWX1' dual-zone 83-bottle wine cabinet, $2799, Fisher & Paykel.



'UWKes 1752' 46-bottle wine cabinet, $3687, Liebherr.

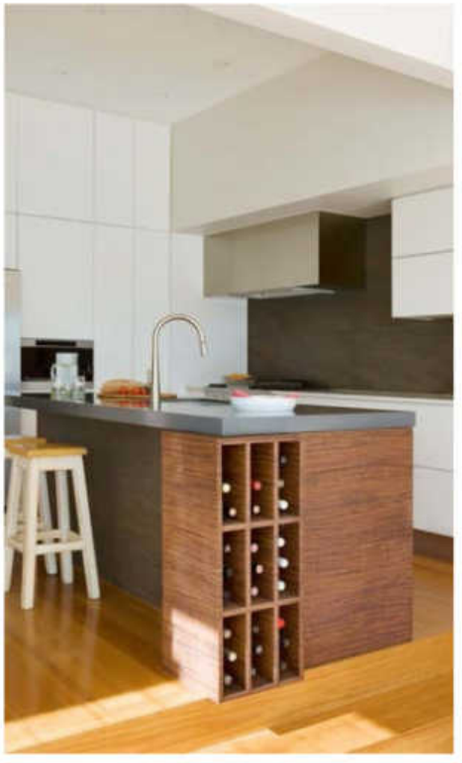


'Compact S059' multi-zone wine cabinet, $3490, Eurocave Australia.

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If you're renovating or building, consider including a built-in wine cabinet (here & below left)… just ensure it's not in direct sunlight.



ON THE RACK

If space, lifestyle or budget mean you're more likely to opt for a wine rack, it's still handy to know where to put it. Beware "filler" racks built into kitchen cabinets near appliances. "The most common mistake we come across is wine racks near the stove, as the radiant heat literally cooks the wine," explains Thomas Benhamou. Ideally, wine should be stored at a stable temperature, away from direct light, and where it's subject to minimal vibrations and good airflow, so position the rack away from direct sunlight and major appliances.

Humidity is a also key factor; ideally it should remain between 65 and 75 per cent. "If it's too humid, you promote mould, which will deteriorate labels and corks. If conditions are too dry, you run the risk of corks drying out and shrinking," says Mark Bradstreet. Storing wine under cork on its side is also important in both climate-controlled and open-air racks, to help ensure the cork doesn't dry out. Screw-cap bottles can be stored vertically or horizontally.

Shopping: WINE RACKS



'Hutten' nine-bottle wood wine rack, $16.99, Ikea.



William Rhodes For Echelon aluminium six-bottle wine rack, $176, Top 3 By Design.



Mark O'Ryan 'Fleurieu' wine rack in Beech, $1210, Top 3 By Design.



'Stact' wine rack in Zebrano, $165, Stact.



'Vurm' stainless-steel four-bottle wine rack, $15.99, Ikea.



'Modularack' 24-bottle wine rack in Natural, $74.95, Howards Storage World.



'Halo' wine cabinet in American Oak with Mink finish, $8500, Zuster.

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PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP) HELEN CATHCART/INTERIOR BY WICKENDEN HUTLEY, (BOTTOM) SIMON WHITBREAD

DESIGN YOUR DREAM

KITCHEN

PLAN AHEAD FOR A KITCHEN THAT'S AS FUNCTIONAL AS IT IS STYLISH



TIP:
BEFORE YOU BEGIN, LIST EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A KITCHEN, NO MATTER HOW MINOR

DESIGNED FOR YOU

Did you know Fisher & Paykel invented the first DishDrawer™ dishwasher? Unlike European brands, Fisher & Paykel appliances are designed in New Zealand, specifically for Australasian homes, where the kitchen is often the heart of the home and the place that brings us all together.



PLAN FOR SUCCESS

When you're planning your dream kitchen, start with some basic considerations to point you in the right direction. Who will be using the space, and how? What should it look like? And what appliances will you need? The award-winning collection of high-performance appliances from Fisher & Paykel has been designed to help you create your ideal kitchen. Every appliance is designed to be mixed and matched for a stylish, seamless aesthetic. Whether you prefer a gas or induction cooktop, a steam or conventional oven, coffee makers and more, there's a solution for every space and lifestyle. Revolutionising appliances such as the DishDrawer™ dishwasher and CoolDrawer™ multi-temperature drawer are great solutions for compact spaces, and can be placed in the perfect spot to suit your lifestyle, space and your home's decor.

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Fisher&Paykel

KITCHENS:

counter collaborators

Everyone needs a helping hand in the kitchen at this time of year, and these clever appliances can supply it

WORDS **KAREN BURGE**

KitchenAid's Stand Mixer (left), the enduring workhorse of the countertop, has received yet another attachment update, with the introduction of the new 'Spiralizer', $199. Now you can core, peel and transform vegies into spaghetti-like tresses – just like a pro.

THEY MIGHT TAKE up prime real estate on your kitchen bench, but certain small appliances go above and beyond mere gadget status to really earn their keep and help you entertain with ease. Whether you are a seasoned home cook or you shudder at the sight of a saucepan, today's appliances can simplify steps, save time and inspire success. They are also designed with style in mind, so there's no need to hide them away. From powerful chop-and-blend devices to more sophisticated all-in-one automated cookers that will serve up succulent meats, fast finger foods, curries, soups, risottos, desserts and more, you'll find a whole host on the market. Here's our selection of the benchtop marvels that can ramp up your kitchen repertoire and help you create a feast to impress.



Pleasant brew

The Nespresso Delonghi 'Lattissima Touch', $649, is able to create six variations on a coffee theme – from ristretto to macchiato – at the touch of a button to satisfy the palate of even the most demanding after-dinner guest. It also has an automatic cappuccino function for perfect frothy coffee – or even just your bedtime hot milk. Using pre-measured Nespresso capsules, this machine produces consistent, cafe-standard cups at home.



LIGHT AS AIR

Kambrook's 'Air Chef', $169.95, will "air fry," with little or no oil, a variety of foods (fresh or frozen) including chips, tasty nibbles and even risottos, teriyaki, quiches and cakes. Simply add your ingredients and set the timer.

Today's gourmet gadgets combine *good looks* with easy-clean *efficiency*, so you'll be happy to leave them on display

Rock-steady blending

The high-powered KitchenAid 'Magnetic Drive' Blender, $999, can crush fruit, nuts and ice, create creamy bisques and sauces, juice whole fruits and vegetables, pulse, and work from a list of one-touch, preset recipes. The pitcher locks into place at the front using magnetic drive technology – no more holding down the lid. >



PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) CATH MUSCAT. (THIS PAGE) MARGRIET HOEKSTRA/HOUSE OF PICTURES/PICTURE MEDIA



THE BIG FREEZE

Cuisinart's 'Ice Cream Maker with Compressor', $599, will have even beginners scooping out luscious gelato and ice-cream. With a commercial-quality compressor-freezer, this baby lets you prepare batches of up to 1.5L and use its "keep cool" function when entertaining. Choc-chip, anyone?



Mix it up

Smeg's 1950s-style Stand Mixer, $799, will sit sturdily on your benchtop while making light work of big mixing jobs, with a 4.8L-capacity bowl, 800-watt motor and 10-speed control. It comes with a wire whisk, flat beater and dough hook, and optional accessories to roll and cut pasta. Its retro-inspired lines are worth showing off, too.



ULTIMATE MULTI-TASKER

The Thermomix, $2089, brings together 12 appliances in one, allowing you to mix, beat, blend, whip, weigh, steam, stir, cook, knead and more. There are thousands of recipes adapted to the Thermomix method, which you can access online or via the Recipe Chip – opt for "guided cooking" or take control and go it alone.



HANDY FOOD APPS

These days, no cook's kitchen is complete without a smartphone and a handy app or two. Try these on for size:

Healthy Desserts by Green Kitchen ($4.99) Naturally sweetened treats complete with stunning images. For iPad/iPhone.

Yummly Recipes & Shopping List (free) Brings recipes of the world to your fingertips and shopping trolley. For iPad/iPhone/Android.

Paprika Recipe Manager ($6.49) Find, create and save recipes, cross off steps and time cooking. For iPad/iPhone/Android.

Meat Cuts (free) This will have you selecting and cooking beef, lamb and veal cuts like a master butcher. For iPhone/iPad/Android.

It's never been easier to achieve *professional* results at home, with *technology* that was once only available to chefs

PHOTOGRAPHY LARNIE NICOLSON



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light the night

Turn your outdoor spaces into a fabulous fairyland with a whimsical sprinkling of spot-on lighting

WORDS **CATHERINE McCORMACK**

NOW IS THE time to take entertaining outdoors, and creating an uplifting atmosphere is the key to hosting successful summer soirees. Naturally, you won't want to be fumbling around in the dark, but there's lighting, and then there's lighting. We've asked the experts for their top tips and inspiration – from task illumination, necessary for ensuring you don't singe your snags, to ambient lighting – so your great outdoors can shine all year-round.



1 TRIP THE FLAME FANTASTIC

"I adore over-candling for the table," says interior designer and author Shannon Fricke, who likes to place pillar candles of varying heights along the length of a setting. "They add a dramatic flavour and a warm glow," she remarks. Opt for battery-powered candles for outdoors as they won't be snuffed out by the evening summer breeze.



2 DEFINE A ZONE IN AN OPEN SPACE

"I'm a big fan of strung bulb lighting as a way of framing an open outdoor entertaining space," says Shannon, who likes to use lights to create a "ceiling". String lighting is available in a wide variety of styles – festoon (above) and lanterns for starters – and is also versatile, easy to move around and often reasonably priced. Pair lights with an outdoor rug to create a truly cosy space or hang string lighting to set the perimeter for a whimsical dance floor.

"Think about applying layers of *light* – ambient, *accent* and task" – Joe Snell, Llight



3 GO FOR BRIGHT IN FOOD PREP AREAS

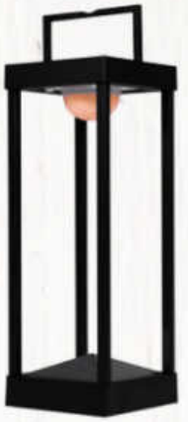
Task lighting is key in areas where you prepare and cook food. "Lighting needs to be strong and sharp to cut through the steam and smoke," says Adrian Swain, director of landscape design practice EcoDesign. Downlights are fitted directly above and beside the barbecue in this alfresco dining space (left) by Porter Davis, to allow the light to hit the cooking and preparation surfaces.



4 HIGHLIGHT HARDSCAPING

Brett Robinson, director of landscape architecture studio Acre, likes LED strip lighting mounted to the underside of floating hard structures such as decking, stairs or a barbecue bench. "They emit a warm glow that amplifies the hovering nature of the design," he says. They also prevent guests, and hosts, from tripping over in the dark. >

—solar lights—



Maiori 'La Lampe Parc' solar **lantern** in Black, $550/large, Top 3 By Design.



Solar **lantern** in White, $85, Terrace Outdoor Living.



'Solvinden' solar **table lamp** in Acacia, $19.99, Ikea.



Eva Solo 'Sunlight' solar **garden lamp**, $99, Top 3 By Design.



Copper finish solar **light**, $4, Kmart.



Cole & Bright solar 'Rock' **light**, $9.97, Masters.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) FERNANDO BEDÓN/RBA. (THIS PAGE, FROM TOP) PRUE RUSCOE, PORTER DAVIS, SUE STUBBS

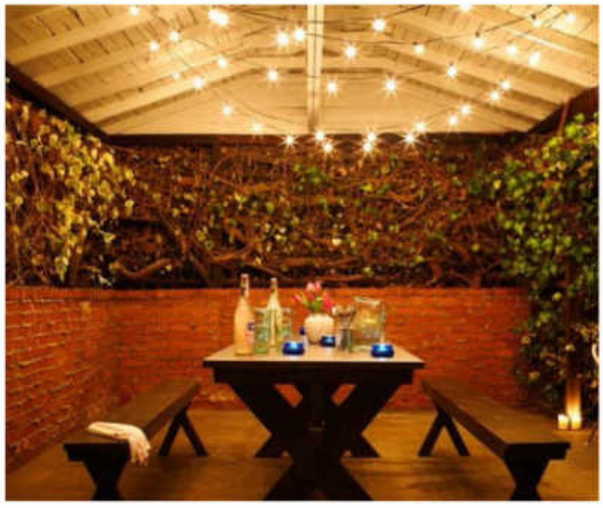


5 LIGHT UP TREES AND FEATURE PLANTS

"Lighting garden beds is a lovely way to add dappled light outdoors," says Shannon Fricke. Corridors down the side of a house often provide great creative opportunities – use directional spotlights on hedges and creeping vines, and in-ground spotlights for more sculptural plants.

6 ACCENTUATE WITH CHEERFUL LIGHTS YEAR-ROUND

Fairy lights provide a celebratory feel all year long and are semi-permanent, party-approved options for highlighting entertaining areas, pathways and decking. "They give the ambience and sparkle of the festive season while still having a contemporary edge," says Paul Joseph Hopper of Terrace Outdoor Living.



"Your garden should be a *calming* space that draws you out, and lighting *can create* this effect" - Brett Robinson, Acre



7 WRAP TREES IN A SHINY FESTIVE GLOW

Wrapping the trunk or branches of one or more trees with fairy lights elevates your party atmosphere to spectacular, says Gillianne Griffiths of Griffiths Design Studio. Her preference is for LED mini-lights. "They highlight and accent the natural symmetry of the tree without overwhelming it," she says. Add a bohemian twist to feature trees by suspending a series of glowing lanterns from a low branch.



8 FIND THE PERFECT PENDANT

A pendant hung above a table helps define and frame the space much like in an interior dining room. As you would indoors, look for a lamp that will cast bright but gentle illumination across the table, and ensure it is positioned at a height that won't get in the way when guests are seated. >

—string lights—



Green With Envy **festoon lights**, $179/10m, Down That Little Lane.



'Cage' solar **string lights**, $15, Kmart.



'Paralumi' **shades** in White, $25/each, Seletti.



Solar **string lights**, $10, Kmart.

PHOTOGRAPHY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) NATALIE HUNFALVAY, JOE SCHMELZER/TREASURBITE STUDIO INC., PEPA OROMI/RBA, JOHN PAUL URIZAR

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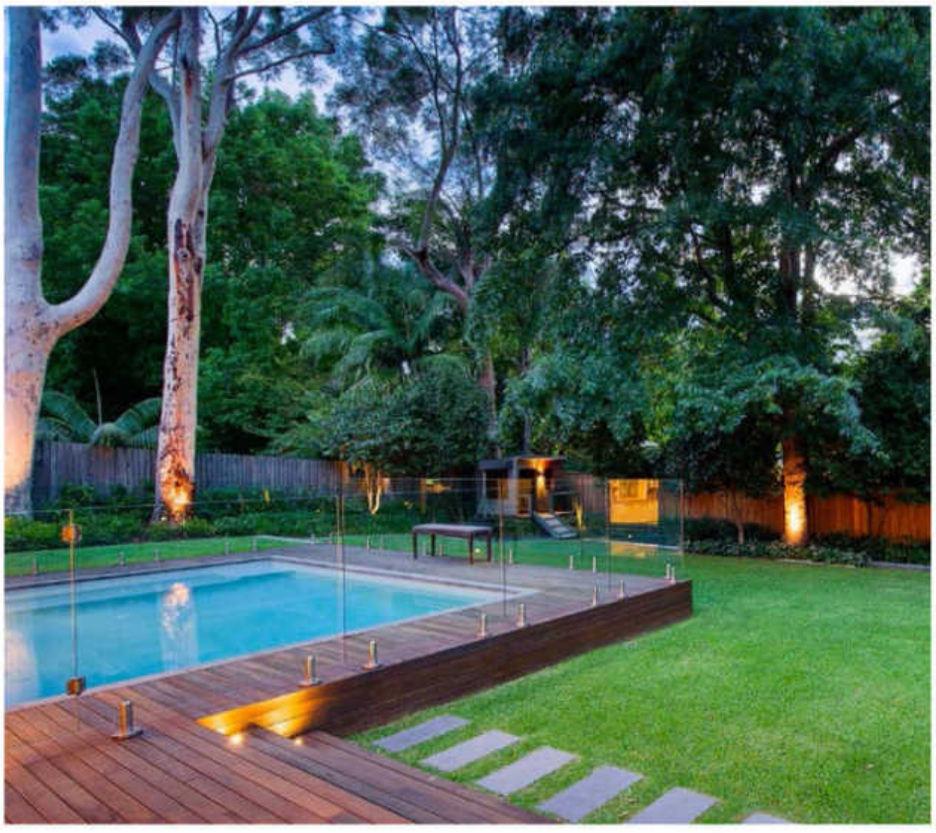
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9 GIVE THE POOL RESORT STYLE

Well-positioned uplighting in the pool area will highlight the soothing motion and colour of the water. "Place in-ground lights around the pool that shine into the branches of nearby trees to give them a sculptural quality," advises Gillianne Griffiths. Illuminated trees in this Art In Green garden (above) give a luxe holiday feel and make the space appear larger.



10 CHOOSE LAID-BACK LIGHTING FOR YOUR LOUNGE AREA

The cardinal rule for lighting outdoor living zones? "No downlights!" says architect Joe Snell, creative director of lighting consultancy Llight. "These spaces should be relaxing and don't need much light – certainly not harsh task lights." Instead, opt for uplighting on posts and walls. "As long as these are nice materials then the light will be lovely and diffused," explains Joe. Wall sconces (left) and table lamps are other stylish options.

THE RIGHT WHITE

Before splurging on Christmas lights, check the colour on the box. "There is a massive difference between cool white and warm white," says Brett Robinson. "Warm white light is inviting and calming – it has Christmas written all over it. Cool white, on the other hand, can feel clinical and harsh."

pendants



'Industrial' solar **pendant** in Aqua, $169, Vavoom Emporium.

'Wahad' crochet **pendant** in Metallic Silver, $145, Hamimi.





Gardman 'Colour Change Party' **lantern**, $9.97, Masters.



'Santa Cruz' **lantern** in Natural, $99.95, Eb & Ive.



'Firefly' **pendant**, $135, Milton Lighting.

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP) THEPICTUREDESK.COM.AU, (BOTTOM) FELIPE SCHEFFEL/RBA

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NOTE: Always follow the clothing care label instructions.



CHEESE AND CHIVE BLINI WITH TOMATO CREAM CHEESE AND PROSCIUTTO

MAKES 16 | PREPARATION 20 MINS | COOKING 15 MINS

125g spreadable cream cheese
80g semi-dried tomatoes, drained
150g (1 cup) self-raising flour
¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda
pinch salt
180ml (¾ cup) milk
1 egg
40g (⅓ cup) grated tasty cheese
¼ cup finely chopped chives
40g prosciutto
baby herbs to garnish

1. Combine cream cheese and tomatoes in the Cuisine Companion bowl fitted with ultrablade knife and mix on speed 8 for 20 seconds until smooth. Transfer to a bowl.
2. Place the milk, egg and chives in the cleaned bowl fitted with the kneading/crushing blade. Mix at speed 10 for 10 seconds.
3. Gradually add the sifted flour, bicarb and salt through the opening on the lid, still at speed 10 until combined. Stir through cheese. Stand mixture for 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, cook prosciutto in a large greased frying pan until browned and crisp. Set aside. Cool then tear into small pieces.
5. Drop tablespoons of batter into hot, oiled frying pan. Cook until browned on one side then turn and cook other side. Cool.
6. Spread tomato mixture over blinis and top with prosciutto and herbs.

Christmas in one touch

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING A BREEZE WITH THE TEFAL CUISINE COMPANION AND THESE SIMPLE YET DELICIOUS FESTIVE RECIPE IDEAS.

SPAGHETTI MARINARA

SERVES 6 | PREPARATION 30 MINS | COOKING 30 MINS

500g dried spaghetti
1 brown onion
3 cloves garlic
40ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
125ml (½ cup) white wine
800g can diced tomatoes
⅓ cup tomato paste
1 tsp sugar
pinch dried chilli flakes
400g mussels, cleaned
12 medium prawns, peeled, leaving tails intact
2 small calamari, cleaned, sliced
400g firm white fish (skin and bones removed), cut into 2cm pieces
½ cup chopped parsley, plus extra to garnish

1. Cook pasta in a large pan of boiling, salted water, according to packet directions. Drain.
2. Place 3 cups water in Cuisine Companion bowl (up to steam line). Place steamer basket on top and add mussels. Steam for 8 min until mussels open. Set aside. Reserve ½ cup liquid.
3. Peel the onion and garlic and cut in half. Place in the bowl with the ultrablade knife and mix on speed 12 for 10 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula.
4. Replace the ultrablade knife with the mixer, add the oil and launch the P1 Slow Cook program at 130°C for 7 minutes. After 5 minutes (with 2 minutes remaining on the timer) add the wine through the opening in the lid and continue to cook for 2 minutes.
4. Add the tomatoes, paste, sugar, chilli flakes and 125ml (½ cup) steaming liquid. Launch the P3 Slow Cook program at 95°C for 15 minutes. After 10 minutes (with 5 minutes remaining on timer) add the seafood and cook for 5 minutes until just cooked through. Season.
5. Stir the sauce through pasta with mussels. Add parsley and mix well. Serve topped with extra parsley.



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For more Christmas ideas and a special festive offer visit cuisinecompanion.com.au

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LEMON TART

SERVES 6-8 | PREPARATION 30 MINS | COOKING 50 MINS

125g chilled butter, diced
225g (1½ cups) plain flour
55g (⅓ cup) icing sugar
1 egg yolk
20-30ml (1-1½ tbs) chilled water
Fresh raspberries, icing sugar and thick cream, to serve

For the filling:
3 eggs
110g (½ cup) caster sugar
160ml (⅔ cup) thickened cream
3 tsp finely grated lemon zest
80ml (⅓ cup) lemon juice

1. Place the diced butter, flour and icing sugar in the Cuisine Companion bowl fitted with the kneading/crushing blade. Mix at speed 9 for 1 minute or until mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
2. Add the egg yolk and water through the opening on the lid and mix on speed 9 for 20 seconds or until mixture just comes together (add extra water if needed). On a lightly floured surface knead pastry until smooth. Shape into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap and place in fridge for 30 minutes to rest.
3. Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Roll the pastry out between 2 sheets of baking paper until large enough to line a 10cm x 34cm (base measurement) tart tin with a removable base. Trim excess pastry. Chill for 15 minutes.
4. Place tin on a baking tray. Cover pastry base with baking paper and fill with pastry weights. Bake 15 minutes. Remove paper and weights and bake for a further 10 minutes. Reduce oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced.
5. Meanwhile, combine filling ingredients in the bowl fitted with the whisk and launch at speed 6 for 30 seconds. Pour into tart base. Bake for 20-25 min until just set; cool. Refrigerate until cold.
6. Top with raspberries and dust with icing sugar. Serve with thickened cream.



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Indulge in Christmas treats and delicious dishes to share



foodie cheer

Gathering for a sensational meal is one of the highlights of the season. From cherry-studded treats to two great Christmas menus, our heavenly summer recipes will inspire and delight.

Wooden **crate** in Natural Look Grey, $44.95, Koch & Co. Silver acorn **garland**, $28, Suzie Anderson Home. 'Madeleine' **candles**, $26 each, Cire Trudon. 'Christmas Tree' **gift tag**, $2, Lauren Merrick Illustration. Glass **jar** with lid, $4, Kmart. Morgan & Finch 'Cucina' **tea towel**, $7.95, Bed, Bath N' Table.

cherry on top

Make a pit stop and create these show-stopping summertime treats

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING **KERRIE WORNER**
STYLING **JOHN MANGILA** PHOTOGRAPHY **NICKY RYAN**



BLACK FOREST PAVLOVA
See recipe on page 220



CHERRY & ROSEMARY FOCACCIA
See recipe on page 222

The *sweetness* of cherries is offset by rosemary and salt in this *fabulous* focaccia

Opposite: Vintage **champagne flutes**, $60/set of 4, crocheted **place mat**, $75/set of 6, all No 12 Trading. **Cake stand**, $80, Honeybee Homewares. Vintage **forks**, $50/set of 4, The Bay Tree. **Plates**, stylist's own. **Stockists, page 237 >**



BUTTER-YELLOW *custard* GETS THE CHERRY TREATMENT IN THIS CAN'T-STOP-AT-ONE-PIECE *tart*

CHERRY CUSTARD TART
See recipe on page 222



CHERRY POPSICLES
See recipe on page 222

Metal tray, stylist's own.
Opposite: **Breadboard**, $53, Lime Lifestyle. Linen **tea towel**, $15, The Lost And Found Department. Vintage **knife**, $24.95, and **spoon**, $79.95/set of 6, both The Bay Tree.
Stockists, page 237 >

CHERRY & VANILLA JAM

Makes 1.25L

1kg cherries, pitted
⅓ cup lemon juice
1 vanilla bean, split lengthways
1kg jam-setting sugar

1. In the bowl of a food processor, add half of the cherries and pulse until chopped. Put in a large, heavy-based pot. Cut remaining cherries in half and add to pot, along with lemon juice. Scrape seeds from vanilla bean using the tip of a knife. Add seeds and bean to cherries. Put over a medium heat and bring to the boil, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until cherries are tender.
2. Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Bring to the boil, then boil for 25-30 minutes, stirring occasionally. To test if jam is ready, place 2 small plates in the freezer for 10 minutes. Drop a spoonful of jam onto 1 plate and return to freezer for 2 minutes. Run your finger through the centre of jam, hold the plate on its side and, if jam holds its shape without running, it's ready. If jam doesn't hold its shape, cook for a further 2 minutes, then test again with remaining plate in the freezer.
3. Skim any foam from the surface of jam, then spoon into hot sterilised jars and seal. Turn jars upside down for 15 minutes to create seal, then turn upright. Store in a cool, dark place for up to 2 months. Refrigerate after opening.

BLACK FOREST PAVLOVA

Serves 10

8 eggwhites (about 280g)
2¼ cups caster sugar
1 tbsp dark cocoa
100g dark chocolate, finely chopped
400g cherries, pitted, halved
2 tsp cornflour
¼ cup cherry brandy
¼ cup water
600ml whipped cream
Chocolate curls or Flake bar, to decorate
40g nut bar, finely chopped, optional (see tip, below)

1. Preheat oven to 120°C. Using a pencil, trace a 22cm circle on 2 separate pieces of baking paper. Grease 2 oven trays. Place baking paper on prepared trays, drawing-side down.
2. In the large bowl of an electric mixer, beat eggwhites until foaming. With motor running, gradually add 2 cups of the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, continuously beating until soft, glossy peaks form. This will take about 15-18 minutes. Sift half of the cocoa into meringue mixture, add chocolate and stir gently to combine. Sift over most of remaining cocoa, then swirl through to create a marbled effect.
3. Using a large metal spoon, divide meringue mixture evenly between prepared trays. Sift over remaining cocoa, then spread meringue to edges of circles. Bake for 1½ hours until crisp. Turn oven off and allow meringues to cool in oven with door slightly ajar, preferably overnight.
4. Put cherries in a small saucepan with cornflour, brandy, water and remaining sugar. Stir over a medium heat until sugar dissolves. Simmer for 2-3 minutes or until cherries become soft and mixture thickens. Remove and set aside to cool completely. (This can be done a day ahead. Store in a covered bowl at room temperature until needed.)
5. To assemble, place 1 meringue disc on a cake stand and spoon over ⅔ of the whipped cream, keeping within 1cm from the edge to allow for spreading. Spoon half of the cherry mixture over cream. Top with second meringue, then spread with remaining whipped cream. Spoon over a little of the cherry mixture. Arrange chocolate curls on top. Sprinkle with nut bar pieces, if using. Serve with remaining cherry syrup.

Tip: We used a Go Natural Nut Delight Bar, available from the health-food section of supermarkets and at health-food stores. >



Top: Linen **tea towel**, $15, The Lost And Found Department. Tony Sly oval **plate** in Modern White, $29, vintage **spoon**, $79.95/set of 6, both The Bay Tree. Quilted half-pint **mason jars**, $51/set of 24, Just Jars. **Stockists, page 237**

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CHERRY & ROSEMARY FOCACCIA

Serves 8

1⅓ cups warm water
2 tsp caster sugar
2 tbsp olive oil
7g sachet dried yeast
3 cups plain flour, plus extra for dusting
2 tsp sea salt flakes
1 tbsp chopped rosemary
300g cherries, pitted
2 tsp rosemary leaves
Olive oil cooking spray
Labneh, to serve (see tip, below)

1. To make dough, combine water, sugar and oil in a large jug. Sprinkle over yeast. Stir to combine. Stand in a warm place for 10 minutes until frothy. Meanwhile, sift flour into a large bowl. Stir in 1 tsp of the salt and the rosemary. Make a well in the centre, add yeast mixture and stir to combine. Use your hands to bring dough together. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 minutes, until smooth and elastic. Put dough into a lightly floured bowl, cover and rest in a warm place until doubled in size (this should take about 1 hour).
2. Preheat oven to 200°C. Dust 2 large oven trays with plain flour. Punch down dough with your fist and knead lightly until smooth. Cut in half. Roll out 1 piece at a time on a floured surface until 35cm x 20cm and 2cm thick. Put on prepared trays. Using your knuckle or thumb, press dimples into dough. Press cherries into dough. Sprinkle with remaining salt and rosemary leaves. Spray with oil. Cover and sit in a warm place for 20 minutes or until dough has risen slightly.
3. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden and focaccia sounds hollow when tapped. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Cut into squares and serve with labneh on the side.

Tip: Labneh is a Middle Eastern soft cheese made from strained yoghurt and is available at supermarkets and speciality grocers.

CHERRY POPSICLES

Makes 8

500g cherries, pitted
2 tbsp caster sugar
2 tbsp honey
500ml pure coconut water

1. Place all ingredients in a medium saucepan over a medium heat and stir until sugar has just dissolved. Use a hand-held stick mixer to blend mixture or transfer to a food processor and process until smooth.
2. Put a fine sieve over a large jug. Pour cherry mixture into sieve and stir until all liquid has passed through. Discard pulp. Pour into 8 x 100ml popsicle moulds. Top with popsicle lids or freeze until firm enough to insert wooden popsicle sticks. Freeze until set.
3. To remove, run plastic moulds under hot water for 3 seconds to loosen popsicles. Remove popsicles and serve.

CHERRY CUSTARD TART

Serves 8

Pastry
½ cup plain flour, plus extra for dusting
¼ cup self-raising flour
2 tbsp caster sugar
100g chilled unsalted butter, chopped
1 egg yolk
1 tbsp chilled water

Custard
4 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup caster sugar
300ml thickened cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
150g cherries, pitted
Icing sugar, for dusting

1. To make pastry, put flours, sugar and butter in the bowl of a food processor and process until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add egg yolk and water, then process until mixture begins to form a ball. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead until just smooth. Flour surface again, and roll pastry out to a 30cm circle. Lift 1 end of pastry over rolling pin and carefully lift into a 22cm-wide and 4cm-deep flan tin with removable base. Press pastry into tin. Trim edges. Refrigerate for 20 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C. Line pastry case with baking paper and fill with uncooked rice or baking beans. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove paper and rice or beans, then cook for another 10 minutes, until pastry is lightly golden on the edges. Remove pastry case from oven, set aside, and reduce temperature to 140°C.
3. To make custard, whisk eggs, sugar, cream and vanilla in a bowl until combined. Put pastry case (still in tin) on an oven tray. Pour custard into pastry case, then dot evenly with cherries. Bake for 45-50 minutes, covering edges with foil if overbrowning, until just set in the middle (custard should still wobble when tart is gently shaken).
4. Stand tart in tin on a wire rack to cool. When cool, remove tin, leaving the base on. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight. Dust with icing sugar to serve.

Top left: **Glasses**, $15 each, Honeybee Homewares. **Knife**, $24.95, The Bay Tree. 'Raku Canoe' **bowl** in White, $22.50, Lime Lifestyle. Stockists, page 237


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CELEBRATION DELIGHTS

Whether you're in the country or at the beach, here are two menus that your guests will adore

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING **KERRIE WORNER**
STYLING **JOHN MANGILA**
PHOTOGRAPHY **CATH MUSCAT**

CHRISTMAS MAGIC (FROM PAGE 41)

GRILLED ZUCCHINIS & ARTICHOKES WITH MARINATED MOZZARELLA

Serves 6-8

2 tsp brown mustard seeds
3 tsp coriander seeds
1 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
1½ tsp dried chilli flakes
2 tbsp preserved lemon rind, finely chopped
2 balls (400g) fresh buffalo mozzarella
5 (500g) small zucchinis, trimmed
4 (500g) finger eggplants, trimmed
720g jar marinated artichokes with stems, drained (see tip, below)
Fresh olive baguette, to serve

1. Put seeds in a small frying pan over a medium heat for 2 minutes or until fragrant. Transfer to a mortar and pestle and pound lightly to release flavour. Transfer to a medium bowl and add oil, parsley, chilli and lemon rind. Stir until combined. Add mozzarella to bowl and coat with marinade. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, using a mandolin, cut zucchinis and eggplants lengthways into 5mm-thick slices. Cut artichokes in half lengthways. Combine zucchini, eggplant and artichokes in a large bowl with 2 tablespoons of the marinated mozzarella oil.
3. Heat a char-grill plate over a high heat. Cook vegetables, in batches, for 2 minutes each side or until lightly charred. Set aside. Arrange vegetables on a plate. Serve with torn balls of mozzarella drizzled with marinating oil, and torn pieces of baguette.

Tip: You can use drained oil from artichokes as part of the oil used in marinade.

TOMATO, BEAN & BASIL SALAD

Serves 6

800g baby tomatoes, quartered (see tip, below)
2 medium Lebanese cucumbers, halved lengthways, thickly sliced
400g can cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
1 medium red onion, chopped
⅓ cup medium-sized basil leaves
¾ cup pitted black olives, drained
Micro herbs, to serve, optional

Dressing
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
1 clove garlic, crushed

1. Combine tomato, cucumber, beans, onion, basil and olives in a large bowl.
2. To make dressing, combine all ingredients in a small bowl and whisk until combined. Season. Pour dressing over salad and toss to combine. Arrange on a platter or in a bowl and sprinkle with micro herbs to serve, if desired.

Tip: You can use any variety of small tomato for this recipe.

POTATO & PANCETTA ROAST WITH THYME

Serves 6-8

60g melted butter
2 tbsp olive oil
1 clove garlic, crushed
12 (1.8kg) medium brushed potatoes, peeled
½ tsp ground sea salt
1½ tsp onion powder
150g pancetta, rind trimmed, finely diced
6 thyme sprigs

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Combine butter, oil and garlic in a small jug. Brush a 1.75-litre metal or ceramic ovenproof dish with a little butter mixture. Using a mandolin, cut potatoes into 5mm-thick slices. Gather each potato into a bundle and place around outside of dish, continuing towards the centre until base is covered.
2. Brush potatoes with some of the butter mixture, reaching in between a few of the potato slices. Sprinkle with salt and onion powder. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes, brushing with more butter mixture halfway through.
3. Remove from oven and baste with butter mixture in the bottom of pan. Sprinkle with the pancetta and top with broken sprigs of thyme. Bake for a further 15-20 minutes or until top is golden. Serve. >



GRILLED ZUCCHINIS & ARTICHOKES WITH MARINATED MOZZARELLA

Smoky yet sweet, *charred* Mediterranean vegetables are the *finest* pre-feast snacks



TOMATO, BEAN & BASIL SALAD





POTATO & PANCETTA ROAST WITH THYME

CHRISTMAS MAGIC (FROM PAGE 41)

TURKETTA

Serves 6-8

3 tsp dried fennel seeds
1 tbsp chopped rosemary leaves
2 tbsp chopped oregano leaves
2 tsp finely grated orange zest
1.8kg turkey breast fillet (see tip, below)
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsp olive oil
1½ tbsp cornflour
1½ cups chicken stock

1. Heat fennel seeds in a small frying pan over a medium heat for 2 minutes or until fragrant. Transfer to a mortar and pestle, then crush. Combine fennel, rosemary, oregano and orange zest in a small bowl.
2. Put breast, skin-side down, on a clean surface and open out tenderloin. Cut a deep slit down the centre of thickest part of breast. Rub entire breast and tenderloin with garlic and 1 tablespoon oil, then season. Spread with herb mixture.
3. Roll up firmly and tie at regular intervals using kitchen string. Put on a tray, cover with plastic wrap, then refrigerate overnight. Remove turkey from fridge 30 minutes prior to cooking. Preheat oven to 200°C. Transfer turkey to a roasting pan. Rub with remaining oil. Roast for 1 hour, turning pan halfway, or until golden and juices run clear when pierced with a skewer. Allow turkey to stand for 15 minutes before carving.
4. Pour pan juices into a small saucepan. Combine cornflour with ⅓ cup of the chicken stock in a jug until smooth. Stir in remaining stock until combined. Add stock mixture to pan with juices and bring to the boil, whisking often, until thickened to desired consistency. Season. Carve turkey and serve with gravy.

Tip: Visit gamefarm.com.au for turkey breast stockists.



TURKETTA

TIRAMISU TORTE

Serves 10-12

4 egg yolks
2 eggs
½ cup caster sugar
2 cups hot milk
¼ cup boiling water
3 tsp powdered gelatine
1 cup strong espresso coffee
¼ cup Marsala or Kahlúa
2 tbsp crème de cacao or cacao brun liqueur, optional
600g sponge finger (Savoiardi) biscuits
250g mascarpone
300ml thickened cream
Dutch cocoa, for dusting

1. Put egg yolks, whole eggs and ⅓ cup of the sugar in a large heatproof bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat until mixture is tripled in volume, pale and creamy. Gradually add hot milk and stir until combined.
2. Put bowl on top of a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure bottom doesn't touch water. Stir frequently, using a wooden spoon, for 20-25 minutes or until mixture thickens slightly. Put a sieve over a clean bowl and pour in custard. Sit bowl in a larger bowl of iced water for 15 minutes until cooled slightly.
3. Meanwhile, put boiling water in a heatproof jug and sprinkle over gelatine. Stir until almost dissolved. Microwave on high for 10-15 seconds. Stir until dissolved. Allow to cool slightly. Combine remaining sugar, coffee, Marsala or Kahlúa and liqueur, if using, in a medium bowl.
4. Remove custard from iced water and whisk in mascarpone and gelatine mixture until smooth. Pour custard into a large measuring jug. Arrange a tightly packed layer of biscuits over a 20cm base round springform tin, cutting to fit. Brush with coffee mixture. Pour ¼ of the custard over biscuits. Dip 1 biscuit at a time in coffee mixture for 2-3 seconds, then make another layer on top of custard. Pour over another ¼ of the custard. Repeat with 2 more layers of biscuits and custard. Place tin on a tray. Cover loosely with foil. Refrigerate overnight (this can be done up to 2 days ahead). To remove from tin, run a flat palette knife around the side of torte before removing tin. Use a wide cake lifter to slide under torte to transfer to a cake stand.
5. Whip cream until firm peaks form. Spread cream over side and top of torte. Dust top with cocoa. Cut 2cm off the end of remaining biscuits and place around side of torte, flat-side down. Serve. Remaining torte can be refrigerated up to 2 days. >



TIRAMISU TORTE

ROBERT GORDON 'HARDWARE LANE' ESPRESSO CUPS, $8.80 EACH, DOMAYNE


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WHITE CHRISTMAS (FROM PAGE 61)

GARLIC PRAWN RICE PAPER ROLLS

Makes 15

1kg large green prawns, peeled, deveined
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsp olive oil
2 medium Lebanese cucumbers
15 x 22cm-round rice paper sheets
1 baby cos lettuce, trimmed, rinsed
1 bunch mint, leaves removed, rinsed, drained
150g thinly sliced red cabbage
150g baby beans, trimmed
3 green onions, sliced diagonally

Nuoc cham sauce
2 birdseye chillies, seeds removed, finely chopped
¼ cup lime juice
¼ cup hot water
¼ cup caster sugar
2 tbsp fish sauce

1. To make nuoc cham sauce, put all ingredients in a jug and stir until sugar has dissolved. Set aside to cool.
2. Combine prawns and garlic in a medium bowl. Heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over a high heat. Add prawns, in 2 batches, and cook, turning, for 4-5 minutes or until cooked through. Remove from pan.
3. Cut cucumbers in half, slice in half lengthways, then cut into thin sticks. Soak 1 rice paper sheet for about 20 seconds in a bowl of warm water until soft. Lift from water and spread out flat on a dinner plate.
4. Put a lettuce leaf near top of sheet in centre. Top with small amounts of cucumber, mint, cabbage, beans, onion and 2 prawns. Fold bottom section of sheet over filling, then wrap up from the side to enclose, leaving 1 end open. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Serve, with nuoc cham sauce on the side.

WILD RICE SALAD

Serves 6

150g wild rice
200g yellow cherry tomatoes, halved
¾ cup dried cranberries
4 green onions, thinly sliced
⅔ cup chopped curly parsley
80g pistachio kernels, roughly chopped
1 large avocado, peeled, chopped

Lemon vinaigrette
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
1 small clove garlic, crushed
1 tbsp honey

1. Put wild rice in a sieve and rinse with cold water. Cook rice following directions on the packet. Drain well. Transfer to a large bowl and allow to cool.
2. To make lemon vinaigrette, combine all ingredients in a jug. Season.
3. Add tomato, cranberries, onions, parsley, pistachios and vinaigrette to rice and toss until combined. Add avocado and spoon through gently. Serve.

MARINATED STRIP STEAK SKEWERS

Serves 6

800g skirt steak (see note, below)
⅓ cup low-salt soy sauce
1 tbsp tomato sauce
2 tbsp rice wine vinegar
1 tbsp caster sugar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tbsp finely chopped ginger
2 tsp sambal oelek
2 tbsp olive oil
Micro herbs, to serve

1. Put steak in freezer for 2 hours or until semi-frozen (this makes it easier to slice thinly). Meanwhile, combine soy, tomato sauce, vinegar, sugar, garlic, ginger and sambal oelek in a large glass bowl. Set aside.
2. Cut steak, against the grain, into ½cm-thick slices. Add to marinade and stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.
3. Soak about 36 x 20cm wooden skewers in cold water for 15 minutes. Thread meat onto 1 skewer. Thread another skewer at an angle through meat to secure wider pieces. Repeat until all meat has been threaded onto skewers.
4. Heat oil on a barbecue or char-grill plate over a medium-high heat. Cook skewers, in 2 batches, for 1½-2 minutes each side or until charred all over. Serve on a platter, and sprinkle with micro herbs.

Note: Skirt steak produces a very tender, melt-in-the-mouth skewer that needs minimal cooking. You can also use beef tenderloin or fillet. >



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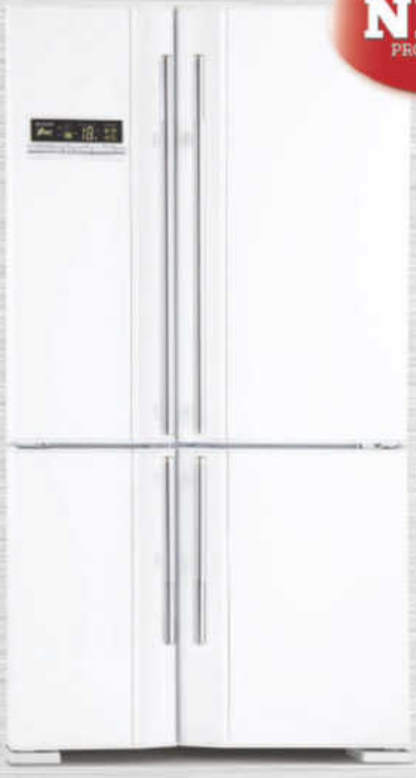
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WHITE CHRISTMAS (FROM PAGE 61)

CABBAGE, KALE, ZUCCHINI & APPLE SALAD WITH SMOKED ALMONDS

Serves 6-8

150g kale
½ (500g) small savoy cabbage, trimmed, thinly sliced
1 large green apple, quartered, cored, thinly sliced
1 bunch radishes, ends trimmed, very thinly sliced
¾ cup smoked almonds
2 (300g) medium zucchinis, trimmed
2 tbsp toasted salad seeds (see tip, below)

Dressing
⅓ cup apple cider vinegar
½ cup olive oil
¼ cup water
3 tsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp brown sugar
3 tsp sesame oil

1. To make dressing, combine all ingredients in a tall jug. Using a hand-held stick mixer, blend until thickened and emulsified. Season.
2. Remove stems from kale and discard. Rinse leaves and shake off excess water. Bunch leaves together and thinly slice. Put kale, cabbage, apple, radish and almonds in a large bowl. Using a julienne slicer, cut zucchini into spaghetti-like strips.
3. Add zucchini and most of the dressing, reserving ⅓ cup, to salad in bowl and toss to combine. Arrange salad in a serving bowl. Drizzle with remaining dressing and sprinkle with toasted salad seeds.

Tip: Toasted and untoasted salad seeds are available from gourmet greengrocers, or you can use any seed mix from supermarkets. Make your own with a blend of toasted black and white sesame seeds, sunflower seeds and pepitas.

YOGHURT & COCONUT PANNA COTTA WITH POMEGRANATE

Serves 6

¼ cup boiling water
3 tsp powdered gelatine
1 vanilla bean, split lengthways
2 cups coconut milk
½ cup caster sugar
1 cup Greek yoghurt
1 pomegranate, seeds removed (see note, below)

1. Put boiling water in a heatproof jug and sprinkle gelatine over water. Stir until most of the gelatine has dissolved. Microwave on high for 10-15 seconds. Stir until gelatine has completely dissolved.
2. Using the tip of a knife, scrape seeds from vanilla bean. Put coconut milk, sugar and vanilla seeds in a saucepan and whisk over a medium heat until sugar has completely dissolved. Remove from the heat and stir in gelatine mixture. Allow to stand for 20 minutes to cool slightly.
3. Add yoghurt to the mixture and whisk until smooth. Ladle into 6 x 160ml-capacity glass dishes. Refrigerate overnight until set. Serve panna cottas topped with pomegranate seeds (see tip, below).

Note: You can use finely chopped strawberries instead of pomegranate seeds.

Tip: Rather than serving in dishes, the panna cottas can be turned out if they've been set in metal or glass moulds. To do this, pull mixture gently away from edges of mould to release suction before inverting onto plates. Hold plate and mould, then give a gentle shake to release.



CABBAGE, KALE, ZUCCHINI & APPLE SALAD WITH SMOKED ALMONDS



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merry mouthfuls

We've picked our top 10 Christmas treats for your indulgence

COMPILED BY OLIVIA CLARKE
STYLING HEIDI ALBERTIRI
PHOTOGRAPHY NATALIE HUNFALVAY



1. Iced chocolate vanilla **star biscuits**, $15.90/110g pack, Phillippa's. 2. Christmas **pudding** in bowl, $39.95, The Essential Ingredient. 3. 'Hero' pecan **fruit cake**, $77/1.3kg, Mother Meg's. 4. Traditional butterscotch **lollies**, $4/160g, Coles. 5. Gold mini chocolate **panettone**, $4/110g, Woolworths. 6. Dark chocolate scorched **almonds**, $21.95/250g, Haigh's. 7. Whisky and marmalade **pudding log**, $43/800g, Newcastle's Pudding Lady. 8. Shortcrust **mince pies**, $4.99/pack of six, Aldi. 9. Masoni 'Margherita' **panforte**, $23.95/450g, Il Providore By Casa Italia. 10. Traditional **shortbread round**, $15.90, Phillippa's. Stockists, page 237

christmas gallery

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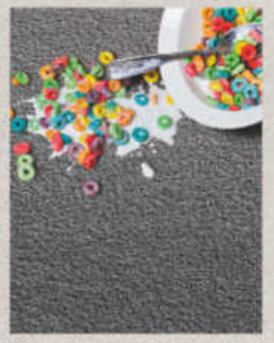


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punchbowls

An irreverent look at the classic things that define you-beaut Aussie life, by our columnist David (that's our budding comic, right)

WORDS **DAVID SMIEDT** ILLUSTRATION **MATT COSGROVE**

OUR FOREBEARS WOULD likely gasp in horror at how casual our lifestyles have become; particularly after the term "lifestyle" was explained to them. Gone are the serried ranks of silverware arranged to reflect myriad dining courses (the only dressing for dinner now involves the oil and vinegar combo on the salad). And our ancestors would become positively apoplectic at the notion of cold seafood as opposed to hot turkey for Christmas lunch.

Some changes have undoubtedly been for the better as our lives and homes have become a tad more laid-back. And there are a bunch of items that we're glad no longer quite fit. Spittoon, anyone?

> Maybe knocking off more *spirits* than the Ghostbusters wasn't the best idea for a *rewarding* home life

Just as tobacco, its by-products (ash, living areas that smelt like pubs) and accoutrements (lighters encased in heavy crystal bases) fell by the wayside, so did many of the accessories of alcohol consumption as we realised that maybe knocking off more spirits than the *Ghostbusters* team wasn't perhaps the best idea for a rich and rewarding home life.

That said, booze sure gave rise to some delightful homewares. Pride of place was given to punchbowls. These were such a part of Australian life that they became a wedding present cliché and young homemakers often found themselves with the punch capacity to quench a small thirsty town. The sheer size of the things – the bowls, not the towns – invited rampant decoration: think frosted swirls, cut crystal, etched motifs of tropical fruit and even metallic finishes.

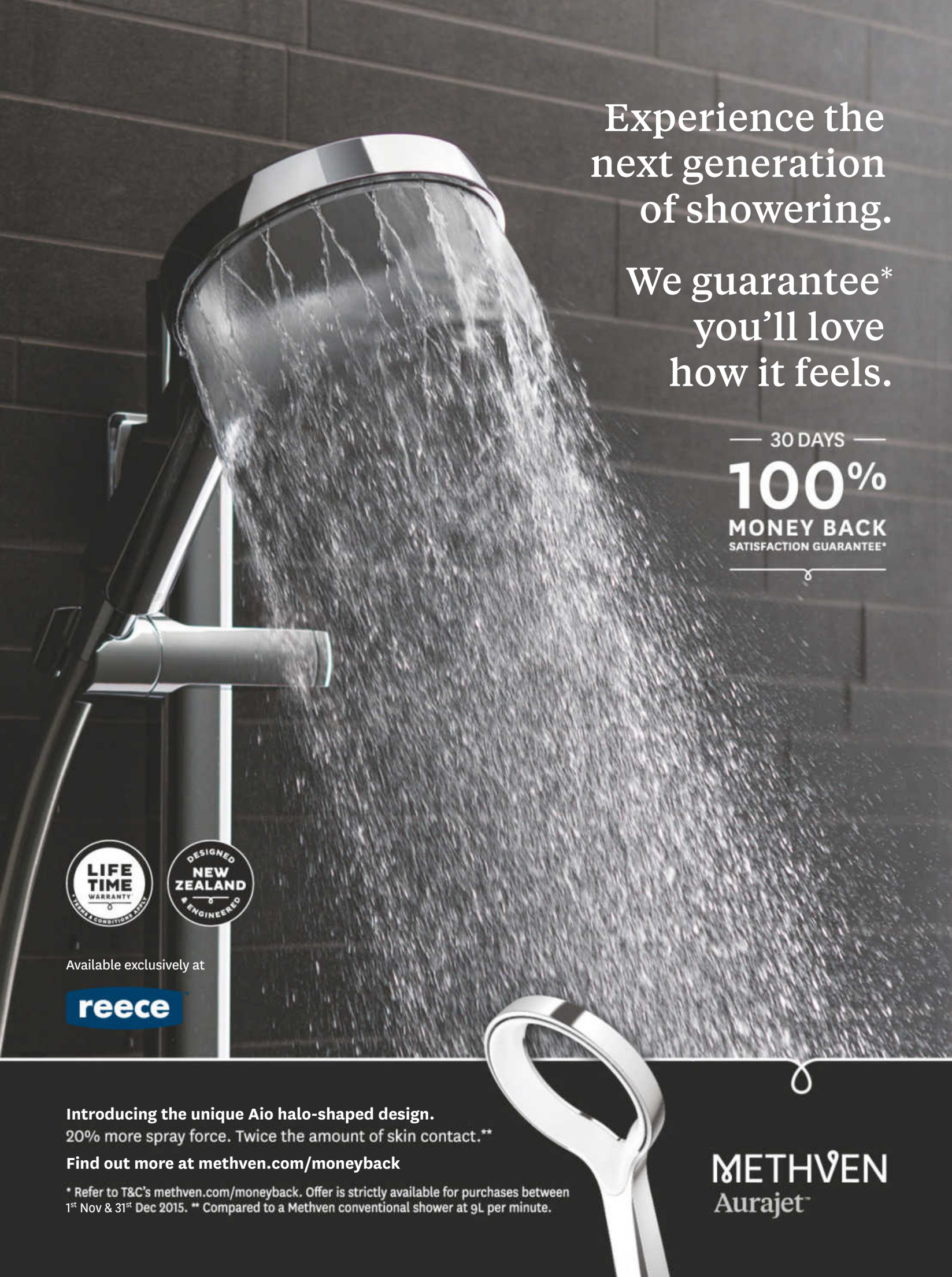
These details were mirrored in the dozen matching cups that came with the punchbowl and ingeniously hung from the sides via a series of plastic or metal (fancy!) hooks. Add to that the similarly adorned ladle that was another component of the set and you had an ensemble that was matchier than eHarmony, RSVP and Tinder combined. On top of all this was the sly genius of being able to store the cups and ladle in the bowl itself when not in use. As in, 363 days of the year.

When the punchbowl was called upon, however, its contents were an exercise in creativity and that was part of the fun. Some recipes were precisely measured family secrets while others took the term punch literally, comprising mainly leftover liquor and whatever mixer happened to be in the fridge and/or cupboard. "Whisky, tequila and pineapple juice?" What could possibly go right?

The variety of punches consumed in Australia was as marked as punchbowls themselves. That said, one of the more ubiquitous components was Pimm's, a herb-infused gin affair that was easy on the palate but could sneak up on you like a ninja. It had originated in London in the 1840s but was the perfect accompaniment to Australia's cornucopia of tropical fruits (cut into rough chunks, of course).

Make no mistake, though, the punchbowl was not brought out every weekend – this centrepiece was made for special occasions. There it stood at big events, a chilled vessel sweating like Kim Kardashian at a history quiz until Company arrived. And even then it was a case of FHB – an acronym this writer's mum would utter under her breath: Family. Hold. Back.

So treasured were these receptacles and their contents, there is a suburb in Sydney called Punchbowl. There are those who will tell you it's named after the shape of the valley in which it sits, but as a nation with a notorious thirst, wouldn't it be lovely if it stood as testament to our favourite festive season tipple? There's no Martiniville, Margarita Heads or Bloody Mary Hills. But Punchbowl will always be there. So raise a glass to this old friend – because that's what Christmas is all about.


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